

SPRING 2017



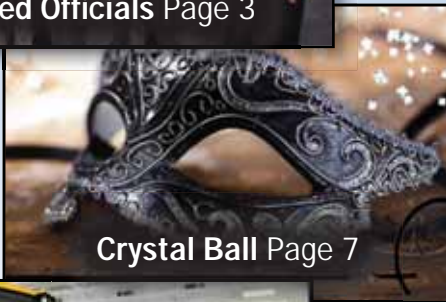
CONNECT WITH US



# THE CRYSTAL CONNECTION



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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 is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Closed Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day

[www.crystalmn.gov](http://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
Parks .....	763-531-1158
Police Records .....	763-531-1014
Police/Fire Emergencies .....	911
Recycling (Hennepin Recycling Group) ...	763-493-8006
Rental Properties .....	763-531-1144
Streets .....	763-531-1164
Utilities .....	763-531-1166
Utility Billing .....	763-531-1114
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	<a href="mailto:jim.adams@crystalmn.gov">jim.adams@crystalmn.gov</a>
Nancy LaRoche (Section I) .....	763-670-2721	<a href="mailto:nancy.laroche@crystalmn.gov">nancy.laroche@crystalmn.gov</a>
Olga Parsons (Section II) .....	612-217-2337	<a href="mailto:olga.parsons@crystalmn.gov">olga.parsons@crystalmn.gov</a>
Elizabeth Dahl (Ward 1).....	612-567-3353	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.dahl@crystalmn.gov">elizabeth.dahl@crystalmn.gov</a>
Jeff Kolb (Ward 2) .....	612-314-5652	<a href="mailto:jeff.kolb@crystalmn.gov">jeff.kolb@crystalmn.gov</a>
John Budziszewski (Ward 3) .....	612-666-9470	<a href="mailto:john.budziszewski@gmail.com">john.budziszewski@gmail.com</a>
Julie Deshler (Ward 4) .....	612-306-5808	<a href="mailto:julie.deshler@crystalmn.gov">julie.deshler@crystalmn.gov</a>

## Meeting Calendar

### Council Meetings

Meetings are generally the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.  
 Dates: ..... March 7 and 21  
 ..... April 4 and 19  
 ..... May 2 and 16

### Council Meeting Broadcasts

All City meetings are open to the public and broadcast live on Channel 16.

### Rebroadcast Schedule:

Dates: ..... Sunday at 6:30 p.m.  
 ..... Monday at 10:30 a.m.  
 ..... Tuesday at 1 p.m.  
 ..... Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.  
 ..... Thursday at 1 p.m.  
 ..... Friday at 6:30 p.m.  
 ..... Saturday at 10:30 a.m.

### On-demand Streaming Video

Live and past meeting webstreams can also be viewed online at [www.crystalmn.gov](http://www.crystalmn.gov). Go to Online Services on the website top menu, and go to OnDemand Council.

### Council Work Sessions

Work sessions are generally held on the second Thursday of the month, as well as before and/or after council meetings. The public is invited to attend all of these meetings. Recordings are available on the City's website.

### Citizen Input Time

Citizen Input Times with City Manager Anne Norris, Mayor Jim Adams and other council members are held the third Tuesdays of January, February, March, April, September, October and November from 6 - 6:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. For information, call 763-531-1145.  
 Dates: ..... March 21  
 ..... April 19

# Meet Your Newly-elected Council Members

During the 2016 General Election, there were four city council seats on the ballot. Residents re-elected Crystal Mayor Jim Adams and Council Member Julie Deshler, who represents Ward 4. Voters also elected two new council members: Nancy LaRoche to Section I representing Wards 1 and 2; and John Budziszewski representing Ward 3.

Each will serve a four-year term which began Jan. 2, 2017 and expires Dec. 31, 2020. To learn more about your city council, visit [www.crystalmn.gov/city\\_government/city\\_council.php](http://www.crystalmn.gov/city_government/city_council.php).

**Jim Adams** lives in Crystal with his wife, Liz, and their children Bre, Suzi and Marty. He has a degree in accounting and business administration.

Jim runs two sober homes and two transitional homes. He and his wife own and operate RAE Enterprises, a remodeling construction company.

What does Jim like about Crystal? "The people here have a great spirit and the more I serve as mayor, the more I believe that Crystal is fertile ground to fulfill the hopes and dreams of its residents with its strong neighborhoods, businesses and churches. My prayer is that I serve you in a fashion that is biblical."



**Julie Deshler** is a long-time resident of the area with daughter Kendra, her dogs Zippy and Striper and Alvin the cat. She has an associate of arts degree in criminal justice and is the store manager at Galls.

Julie's past/present community involvement includes serving as Auxiliary President for Golden Valley VFW, board member of the Quad Community Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, member of Crystal Lions Club and more.

What does Julie like about Crystal? "I love Crystal's small-town feel, strong neighborhoods and wonderful residents. It's also convenient to so many things."

**Nancy LaRoche** and her husband, Walt, have been residents of the city since 1997. She has an associate's degree in graphic design and broadcast communications and works as a senior graphic designer for Mindshare Strategies.

Nancy served on the Parks and Recreation Commission (2011-2016). She currently serves on the Charter Commission (2015-present), the Crystal Frolics Committee and is council liaison to the Environmental Quality Commission.

What does Nancy like about Crystal? "My neighbors and how they look out for each other. Many have stayed here for many years, some multi-generations!"



**John Budziszewski** and his wife, Heidi Ripplinger, have two children. He has a bachelor's degree in international relations and works as a commercial banker during the day and newspaper delivery person by night.

John is a former member of the Crystal Human Rights Commission and involved with We Can Ride, a therapeutic horseback riding organization.

What does John like about Crystal? "Train whistles or the future lack of them, and that the city is an affordable place to live as long as the council doesn't tax you to death. Excited about the coming of Light Rail Transit (LRT)."

# City of Crystal 2017 Utility Rates



On Nov. 15, 2016 the city council approved the 2017 utility rates that went into effect for billings on Jan. 1, 2017.

Water rates include both a fixed service charge and a water use charge. The fixed service charge covers fixed costs such as the Minnesota Safe Water Testing Fee and utility billing costs that the utility has even if a particular customer uses no water at all. The residential service charge is \$6.39 for each three-month billing cycle.

The water use charge is based on the volume of water consumed and is meant to cover operation and maintenance costs. There is no minimum use of water on the bill. If a customer uses no water during a billing cycle, then there will be no water use charge. The fixed service charge and fees for sewer, storm drainage, street light and recycling will still be charged.

Higher water rates take effect as water use increases. Water is measured in units of 1,000 gallons. Commercial, industrial

and institutional users have larger diameter water meters and use more water due to the size and nature of their operations. They pay the same charge per unit of water used, but they have a larger number of units in Tiers 1 and 2, depending on the size of their water meter. They also pay a higher service charge, depending again on the size of their water meter.

For more information about utility rates, contact Utilities Superintendent Randy Kloepper at 763-531-1166, Finance Director Jean McGann at 763-531-1110, or City Engineer Mark Ray at 763-531-1160.

UTILITY RATE CHANGE 2016-2017			
	2016	2017	Dollar Change
Tier #1 water rate per unit, first 30 units	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$0
Tier #2 water rate per unit, 31 to 60 units	\$5.90	\$5.90	\$0
Tier #3 water rate per unit, over 60 units	\$6.30	\$6.30	\$0
Sanitary Sewer residential	\$52.50	\$55.15	\$2.65
Sanitary Sewer senior	\$42.52	\$44.67	\$2.15
Sanitary Sewer commercial (per 1,000 gallons of water used)	\$2.32	\$2.43	\$0.11
Storm Drainage residential	\$13.50	\$16.50	\$3
Storm Drainage commercial ( per acre)	\$337.50	\$412.50	\$35
Street Lights residential or commercial	\$4.90	\$5	\$0.10
Street Lights multi-family residential	\$3.68	\$3.75	\$0.07
Recycling residential	\$10.65	\$10.75	\$0.10



## Sewer Utility Rebates for Qualifying Properties

For those who are age 65 or older or receiving Social Security disability benefits and who live in rental/condo property, the city offers an annual sewer utility rebate up to a maximum of \$39.92 per year. The rebate compensates renters/condo owners with the same discounted rates that are available to qualifying owners of homesteaded

properties on their quarterly bills. Qualifying owners include those who are age 65 or older or those receiving Social Security disability benefits. More information on this program can be found on your quarterly bill.

For those renters who have previously applied for the rebate program, please remember to send a

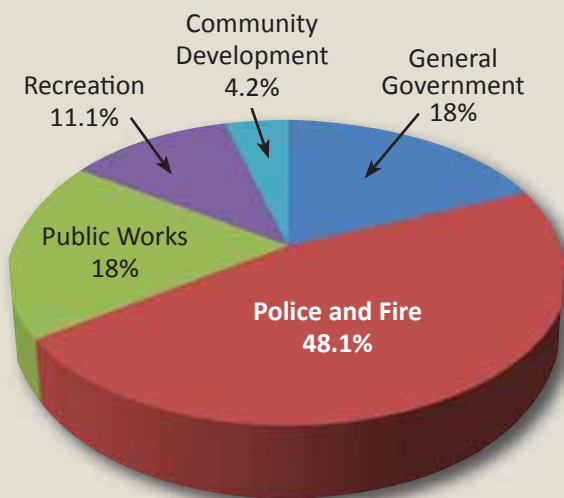
# City of Crystal 2017 Budget

The City of Crystal adopted the 2017 budget and tax levy at the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2016. The adopted 2017 property tax levy is \$10,287,820 which is a \$695,920 or 7.26% increase from the 2016 tax levy, close to the 6.2% average for all Minnesota cities.

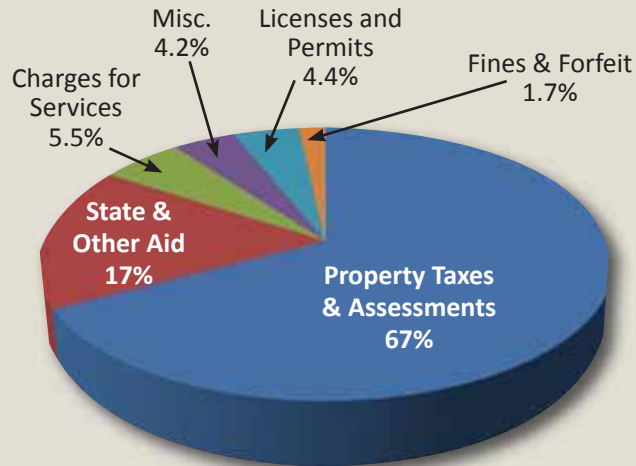
Crystal's 2017 General Fund budget increased by \$641,060 or 8% compared to the 2016 budget. The increase is due to several factors including:

- A wage adjustment allowance for all employees.
- The assumption that all staff positions will be filled in 2017 (some positions were vacant in 2016.)
- Other costs include technology and software licenses, property and liability insurance, maintenance costs and a few long-term efficiencies.

## GENERAL FUND 2017 BUDGET EXPENDITURES



## GENERAL FUND 2017 BUDGET REVENUES



By dividing the 2017 General Fund Budget by the population of Crystal (estimated at 22,943 in 2015), the city will spend \$556.11 per person per year, or \$1.53 per day.

The City Council's focus is on maintaining quality, cost-effective services to its residents. Public safety is the highest priority of the city and commands the largest part of the budget.

Public Safety (police and fire) accounts for 48.1 percent of the budget. Public works (18%) is responsible for maintaining the city's streets, parks and buildings. Significant parts of the recreation (11.1%) and community development (4.2%) budgets are funded by user fees.

Most of the services that people normally associate with cities are included in the General Fund. Other funds include Debt Service Funds, Capital Project Funds and Utility Funds.

For budget questions, contact the finance director at 763-531-1110 or [jean.mcgann@crystalmn.gov](mailto:jean.mcgann@crystalmn.gov).

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copy of your 2016 Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) form to City Hall. The mailing address is City of Crystal, Attn.: Sewer Rebate Program, 4141 Douglas Dr N, Crystal, MN 55422. For those in condominiums, your name must be listed as owner of the condominium on Hennepin County's website in order to qualify you for the rebate.

For those renters/condo owners who have not previously participated in the rebate program,

please stop at city hall to complete an application form. You will be required to show proof of your age (driver's license, Minnesota ID, etc.) or your Social Security disability letter. Renters will also be required to provide a copy of their CRP form.

To be eligible for a rebate, the required forms for both existing and new participants must be received at city hall by April 3, 2017.



## Chief's Corner

As the spring season quickly approaches, the Crystal Police Department

is implementing several exciting initiatives that bring additional opportunities for community members to spend time with police officers and build upon our great tradition of community policing in Crystal. I'd like to share some additional information regarding two of these programs.

The "Coffee with a Cop" program was implemented late last year. It was started by a police department in California and built on the concept that a simple plan to break through barriers can be done over a cup of coffee. In less than five years, "Coffee with a Cop" events are taking place in every state across the country and is considered one of the more successful community-oriented policing programs. In Crystal, the program has met with great success. Many Crystal residents and business owners are taking time out of their busy schedules to enjoy conversations over a cup of coffee with their neighborhood patrol officers.



Coffee with a Cop is a great opportunity to share neighborhood issues and spend some time learning about each other.

Community policing has long been considered a framework for establishing trust between the community and the police. Over time, the character and composition of our community changes due in part to shifting demographics and is affected by the introduction of different communication methods such as websites and social media. The key to the program's growing success is that it opens the door for interactions outside of the crisis situations that typically bring law enforcement and community members together.

I hope you will consider joining us for our next "Coffee with a Cop" event on Tuesday, March 28 from 3 – 4:30 p.m. at the Crystal Café, 2732 Douglas Dr. in south Crystal.

The second program I'd like to share with you is a community partnership between several organizations including the police department and the school district. The new Crystal Learning Center is located in several of the storefronts in the Crystal Shopping Mall. The learning center is home to the school district's Adult Academic Program, Welcome Center and Transition Center. Students can sharpen their English skills, work towards a GED and explore careers or post-secondary education options.

There is much to be excited about in our great city, and in large part, the success of our city is directly connected to our great citizenry. Thank you for the part you play in making Crystal a great place to live and work.

As always, for questions or more information, please contact [Stephanie.Revering@crystalmn.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Revering@crystalmn.gov). You can also keep in touch with the department via Facebook, Twitter or NextDoor. The links are available on the city's website.

First Annual **Crystal Masquerade Ball**  
**Saturday, March 18**  
**5 – 11 p.m.**  
**Crystal Community Center**

Adults enjoy a night with friends and neighbors.

- Formal Attire
- Music by The R Factor
- Cash Bar
- Catered by Milton's

Tickets and information at the community center or [www.crystalmn.gov](http://www.crystalmn.gov).

Bring non-perishable food and cash donations for the NEAR food shelf.



## West Metro Fire-Rescue District to Host Food Drive

West Metro Fire-Rescue District's Seventh Annual "Firefighters Fighting Hunger!" food drive is set for Saturday, March 18, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

West Metro firefighters will have fire vehicles at several local grocery stores including Almsted's Fresh Market, Crystal Aldi, Crystal Target, both Cub Foods on 36th Ave. N. in Crystal and 42nd Ave. N. in Plymouth and the new HyVee in New Hope.

Items can also be dropped off at West Metro Fire Station No. 3 at 4251 Xylon Ave. N. in New Hope on weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or at all three West Metro fire stations anytime that crews are present through March 20.

All donations benefit The Food Group, a hunger relief organization partnering with more than 200 area food shelves and meal programs.

For information, contact [www.wmfrd.org](http://www.wmfrd.org) or call 763-230-7007.

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## METRO Blue Line Light Rail Transit Bass Lake Road Station



Metro Transit is proposing to expand light rail transit (LRT) service by extending the Blue Line from Target Field through north Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park. Crystal would have an LRT station and park & ride lot at the southwest corner of Bass Lake Road and Bottineau Boulevard.

The Metro Blue Line Extension would provide direct, "one seat" service from Crystal to

downtown Minneapolis, MSP International Airport and the Mall of America. It would also provide transfer service to the Green Line LRT serving the University of Minnesota and St. Paul to the east and St. Louis Park, Hopkins and Eden Prairie to the southwest. The Blue Line Extension would start construction in 2018 and begin operating in 2021.

To learn more, please look under "What's Happening?" on the city website at [www.crystalmn.gov](http://www.crystalmn.gov).

## Bowling Tournament and Concert Fundraiser March 11

The Light of Crystal, a social group dedicated to Crystal community pride, is hosting a bowling tournament and concert on Saturday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m. (registration at 5:45 p.m.) with a band concert at 10:30 p.m.



The event is at Doyle's Bowl & Lounge, 5000 West Broadway in Crystal. All Crystal residents and any bowler older than 18 is welcome.

For more information, call Shawn Smith at 612-599-6752 or visit [www.thelightofcrystal.com](http://www.thelightofcrystal.com).

## Help Keep Crystal's Streets Debris Free



An important function of the Crystal Public Works Department is spring street sweeping to remove the debris that accumulates on city streets during the winter. This effort not only keeps the streets looking great, but also reduces the amount of debris entering the city's storm water system.

### You can help:

- Place trash and recycling carts off the street and back from the edge at least 2 to 3 feet.
- Move basketball hoops and other movable items by the street out of the right-of-way (generally 15 feet from the edge of the street) so they don't interfere with sweeping and other summer operations.
- Do not put grass clippings, leaves or other vegetation in the street.

## Crystal Shopping Center at Full Occupancy



Planet Fitness opened in January at the Crystal Shopping Center. With this opening, and several other new or expanded stores during the past year, the center is essentially at full occupancy.

## Does Your Child Love Trucks? *Public Works Now Offers Birthday Party Packages*

To build public awareness of all that Crystal Public Works does and to create a fun opportunity for residents, the public works department is offering a Public Works Birthday Party Package for children 7 and younger.

The basic package (\$140) includes one public works employee bringing one public works vehicle to a Crystal property for one hour. Children can climb into the cab and get their



photos taken, as well as learn more about Crystal Public Works.

Additional items can be purchased or rented with the package, including children's plastic hard hats, plastic cones and children's safety vests that have the City of Crystal logo and "Junior Public Works" on them. For more information, contact Kalli at [publicworks@crystalmn.gov](mailto:publicworks@crystalmn.gov) or

(763) 531-1139 or visit the city website at [www.crystalmn.gov](http://www.crystalmn.gov).



## Free Clothing/Home Goods Recycling Coming to Your Curb



Starting in mid-February, Crystal residents can recycle clothes, shoes and household items at the curb. Look for a mailer from Simple Recycling with orange bags and tags. Place your items in the orange bag, tape on the tag and put the bag next to your recycling cart on your recycling day. Do not put the bag in your cart.

After picking up your bags, Simple Recycling will leave behind replacement bags. For additional bags and tags call 1-866-835-5068 or visit [www.simplerecycling.com/supplies](http://www.simplerecycling.com/supplies).

For a list of acceptable items, visit <http://simplerecycling.com/curbside-clothing-recycling/residents/>.

Without a curbside program, 85% of clothing, shoes and reusable home goods get thrown into a landfill.

## Maple Grove Yard Waste Site Opens April 1

No fooling – you can get rid of those leaves, brush and other yard waste at the Maple Grove Yard Waste Site starting Saturday, April 1. The site is located at 10300 Maple Grove Pkwy.

### YARD WASTE SITE SCHEDULE:

Monday – Saturday: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Sunday: noon – 7 p.m.

Closed: Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day and Thanksgiving Day.

For more information contact HRG at 763-493-8006 or [www.mgyardwaste.com](http://www.mgyardwaste.com).

## Spring Material Drop-off Day on April 30

Spring cleaning may leave you with a pile of stuff to get rid of. Here's your chance to recycle those items that can't go in your recycling cart.



Drop off your mattresses, carpet, electronics, appliances, tires, scrap metal, bikes, batteries and more at Brooklyn Park's Operations & Maintenance facility, 8300 Noble Ave N. on Saturday, May 6 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fees may be charged for some items. There will also be free paper shredding.

The Special Materials Drop-Off Day is open to residents of Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal and New Hope. For more information including a complete list of what is accepted visit [www.hrg-recycling.com](http://www.hrg-recycling.com) or call 763-493-8006.

## Compost Bins/Rain Barrels Available at Reduced Prices

Help yourself, your wallet and the Earth by purchasing a rain barrel and/or a compost bin at a reduced price through the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM).

Starting in March, bins, barrels or kitchen collector pails can be ordered on the RAM website at <http://recycleminnesota.org/work/compost-bins-rain-barrels/>.

Food scraps such as fruit and vegetable wastes, breads, pastas, grains, coffee grounds, egg shells, weeds, non-woody shrub trimmings, faded flowers and more can put into the compost instead of the garbage. Compost can be used as mulch and plant food in the yard. Keeping organic waste out of the garbage reduces trash volume and may allow residents to switch to a smaller garbage cart.



Also, rain captured in a rain barrel is a free source of water. In addition to saving money, rain barrels can keep moisture away from home foundations and prevent debris from washing into storm sewers.



# Japanese Beetle Concerns in Crystal

The Japanese beetle is a serious ornamental plant and turf pest discovered in the U.S. in 1916. The grubs feed on grass roots. Adults feed on the foliage of more than 300 plant species.



Unfortunately, Japanese beetles are becoming a problem in the Twin Cities area thanks to recent heavier than usual rain. Late last year, city staff received numerous calls reporting Japanese beetles eating tree leaves. Other callers reported large areas of dying grass, which, upon further inspection, revealed Japanese beetle grubs eating the grass roots.

In the eastern U.S., the beetles are controlled by soil-inhabiting protozoans not present in Minnesota. In Minnesota, management consists of identifying grub species, determining grub

numbers, identifying thresholds, timing pesticide application to smaller grubs and monitoring for results. Beetle management is the responsibility of the homeowner.

Japanese beetle adults are about 3/8 inches long with a dark metallic green head and metallic dark tan wings (see photo). Adults emerge from the soil in early July, feed, mate and lay eggs. Activity is most intense over a six- to eight-week period,

after which the beetles gradually die off. Individual beetles live about 60 days. Females can lay a total of 60 eggs in a two-month period.

For more information on Japanese beetle management, visit <http://www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/japanese-beetles/>

A homeowner's management handbook is here: [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/jb/downloads/JBhandbook.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/jb/downloads/JBhandbook.pdf)

## CODE ENFORCEMENT: Preserve Neighborhoods by Maintaining Value

### Property Maintenance

Strong neighborhoods are a city council priority. The city's Property Maintenance Code preserves the long-term stability and livability of our neighborhoods by protecting the life, health, and safety of building occupants, preventing the emergence of blighted and deteriorated property and structures, and maintaining property values.

An important component of property maintenance is ensuring a structure's protective exterior surface is in good repair and provides sufficient coverage and protection from the elements. This standard also applies to garages, sheds, fences and other accessory structures. Proper upkeep also includes maintaining exterior walls, chimneys, foundations and roofs.

It is also important to keep property free of litter. In addition to household garbage, appliances, furniture and miscellaneous junk, "litter" also refers to motor vehicles, trailers, recreational vehicles and equipment that are inoperable, unlicensed, partially dismantled or abandoned. Household garbage must be stored in an approved garbage container and collected weekly by a licensed refuse

hauler. Other litter must be stored in a building such as a garage or storage shed. Whether it is old appliances, tires, or excess materials from a project, outdoor storage can quickly become unsightly – so please do your part to help keep your neighborhood looking good.

### Driveways

Spring is a good time to think about installing or replacing a driveway or parking space. Crystal requires hard-surfaced driveways of bituminous or concrete pavement in accordance with standards approved by the city engineer. Alternative hard surfacing such as pavers or permeable pavement will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Permits are required prior to commencing work on a new driveway or reconstructing an existing driveway. More information is available at [www.crystalmn.gov](http://www.crystalmn.gov) under "I Want To...", "Find/View", "construction handouts." You may also call the front desk at (763) 531-1000.

If you have code enforcement-related questions, contact the Code Enforcement Specialist at (763) 531-1143 or [jason.zimmermann@crystalmn.gov](mailto:jason.zimmermann@crystalmn.gov).

## Crystal Fund PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Crystal Community Center

Plant Donations and Volunteers Needed

Proceeds to improve Crystal's parks and open spaces.  
Visit [www.cfcginc.com](http://www.cfcginc.com) for more information.



The Crystal Fund for Community Progress (FCFP) — a nonprofit organization that explores ways to sustain and improve the City of Crystal's parks and open spaces — is hosting its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 20. All proceeds go to improve Crystal's parks and open spaces.

In addition to locally-grown and attractively-priced plants, extension experts and master gardeners will provide information and guidance on pollinator-friendly gardens, proper pruning techniques, sustainable lawns and landscape design.

### Get Some Green. Give Some Green.

The sale is also a great opportunity to donate surplus plants to benefit the community. Plant Sale Committee co-Chairs, Michelle Strand and Guy Mueller, urge residents to thin out or divide some plants in their yard. "You don't have to dump them in the compost heap or clog up the landfills," says Mueller. You can donate them to the Plant Sale by contacting any one of the Plant Sale's neighborhood team leaders listed on the Crystal Fund's website at [www.cfcginc.com](http://www.cfcginc.com).

### Volunteer Opportunities

FCFP is seeking residents or businesses to serve as volunteer Neighborhood Team Leaders to reach out to neighbors and offer their yards as drop-off points for donated plants the week before the Plant Sale. Those interested can contact Guy Mueller at 763-218-6418 or [guymueller1@gmail.com](mailto:guymueller1@gmail.com).

## City Construction Ordinance to Ease Negative Impacts

The Crystal City Council adopted a new ordinance to lessen the negative impacts of new residential construction applicable to the following types of residential construction:

- New single or two-family homes.
- Major additions to existing single or two-family homes (defined as adding a second story or constructing an addition larger than 500 sq. ft.)

### The requirements are as follows:

- Pre-construction Meeting: The builder must meet with city staff to go over construction regulations, including hours of activity, removal of debris and drainage onto adjacent properties before the building permit is issued.
- Construction Management Agreement: The builder must sign an agreement acknowledging city regulations and their responsibility to manage their project and subcontractors.
- Escrow: The builder must make an escrow deposit with the city to guarantee repair of any damage to public property (streets, curbs, sidewalks, utilities and boulevard trees), installation and maintenance of erosion control measures and clean-up of litter and debris.
- Property Sign: The builder must place a sign on the property for the duration of the project with the builder's name and the name and phone number of the builder's project manager.

When the building permit is issued, the city will mail a letter to adjacent property owners with information about the project, the name of the builder, the name and phone number of the builder's project manager and contact information for the code enforcement specialist. A handout will be included that addresses frequently asked questions. The city will also provide general information on its website, including a web-based complaint form.

For questions about the new ordinance, contact the code enforcement specialist at 763-531-1143 or [jason.zimmermann@crystalmn.gov](mailto:jason.zimmermann@crystalmn.gov).

## ARBOR DAY AND PARK CLEANUP

May 3 at 6 p.m.  
Yunkers Park

- Tree giveaway (first come-first serve)
- Help plant trees
- Learn about trees and diseases
- Refreshments

Celebrate Trees in the Community

## SAVE THE DATES



**Join the Discussion**  
Parks System Master Plan  
**Open House**  
Tuesday, March 14  
5:30-7:30 pm  
Crystal Community Center  
WSB



**Crystal Airport**  
**OPEN HOUSE & FLY-IN**  
**June 18**  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Displays, Aircraft, Rides, Concessions, Memorial Ceremony, Vendors and more.  
[www.crystalairportopenhouse.com](http://www.crystalairportopenhouse.com)  
**FREE Hangar Dance**  
**June 17**  
7:30 - 11:30 p.m.  
Featuring Skitz Funk  
Bottineau Blvd. & 58th Ave. N. in Crystal.



## Home Improvement Assistance

The Housing *Resource* Center can help with technical questions about potential home repairs, remodeling projects, or financial assistance, incentives or rebates for home improvements.

Services are free to residents of Crystal and some adjacent communities.

### Housing *Resource* Center

2148 44th Ave N, Minneapolis  
[www.gmhchousing.org/1397-2](http://www.gmhchousing.org/1397-2)  
612-588-3033

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Fourth Saturday each month, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

### Home Improvement Incentive Rebates:

Most Crystal homeowners are eligible for an EDA-funded rebate for a percentage of home improvement costs.

- To qualify, the property must be owner occupied and the project must have a total cost of at least \$5,000 with some exceptions.
- Rebate percentages are on a sliding scale depending on household income, with a maximum income of \$102,960.
- A property may not receive more than one rebate during a 12-month period.
- To receive the rebate, you must submit an application and receive approval from the Housing *Resource* Center before starting a project.

### Interest Rate Buy-Down for Community Fix-Up Fund Loans

Crystal homeowners may also take advantage of a discounted interest rate for home improvement loans made through the Community Fix-Up Fund administered by the Housing *Resource* Center. Maximum household income is \$98,670. Minimum loan is \$2,000; maximum loan is \$50,000. Maximum loan-to-value ratio is 110% of the after-rehab value. Maximum term is 10 years for loans up to \$10,000 or 20 years for loans over \$10,000.

For more information contact the Housing *Resource* Center.

### Deferred Home Repair Loans

This city-funded program is administered by Hennepin County and offers deferred, no-interest home repair loans to homeowners below 50% of metro area median income (up to \$42,900). These loans are forgiven after 15 years unless the homeowner sells or moves out of the property. Also available are deferred loans with a modest interest charge up to 80% of AMI (up to \$67,700).

For more information, contact Hennepin County's housing rehabilitation at 612-348-9260 or email [rehab@hennepin.us](mailto:rehab@hennepin.us).