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**Turn Over For  
Recreation Brochure**

# City of Crystal 2011 Utility Rates

**O**n October 5, 2010, the City Council approved the 2011 utility rates. These include new conservation rates for water that will go into effect for billings on November 29, 2010, and new rates for sanitary sewer and recycling that will go into effect for billings on January 1, 2011.

The City is required by the State of Minnesota to institute conservation water rates. This is a set of rates that will charge a higher rate per unit of water used as the total water usage increases. This system is very different from the flat water rates where the rate per unit of water was the same no matter how much water was used.

The proposed water rates include both service charges and a water use charge. The service charges cover fixed costs such as capital improvements, 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 water use charge is based on the volume of water consumed and is meant to cover operation and maintenance costs. There will be 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 service charge and the Minnesota Safe water testing fee will still be charged.

The higher water rates take effect as water use progresses through tiers. For a residential customer, Tier 1 is anything from zero units of water used through 40 units of water used. Tier 2 is any water used from the 41st unit through the 80th unit. Tier 3 is any water used above 80 units.

Water usage in units	Charge per unit of water
Tier #1 0 to 40 units	\$2.95
Tier #2 41 to 80 units	\$3.25
Tier #3 Over 80 units	\$3.55

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

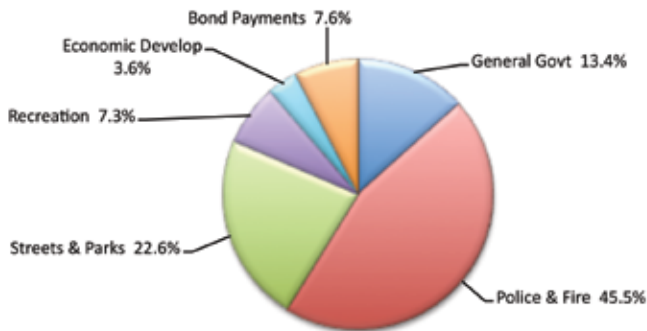
Sanitary sewer rates have been unchanged for at least 10 years. Local operating costs and sewage treatment costs from the Metro Council Environmental Services have increased to the point where a rate increase was necessary. Recycling rates are increasing to cover higher operating costs for the recycling contractor.

Service	2010 Quarterly Rate	2011 Quarterly Rate	Percentage Change
Sanitary sewer, residential, per quarter	\$45.10	\$46.20	2.44%
Sanitary sewer, senior, per quarter	\$36.53	\$37.42	2.44%
Sanitary sewer, commercial, per 100 cubic feet	\$1.49	\$1.53	2.68%
Storm drainage, residential, per quarter	\$9.90	\$9.90	0%
Storm drainage, commercial, per residential equivalency factor	\$49.50	\$49.50	0%
Storm drainage, commercial, per acre	\$247.50	\$247.50	0%
Street lights, residential, per quarter	\$4.20	\$4.20	0%
Street lights, commercial, per quarter	\$4.20	\$4.20	0%
Street lights, multi-family, per quarter	\$3.15	\$3.15	0%
Recycling, per quarter	\$10.35	\$10.65	2.90%

For more information about utility rates, please contact Utilities Superintendent Randy Kloepper at 763-531-1166, Finance Director Charles Hansen at 763-531-1110, or City Engineer Tom Mathisen at 763-531-1160.

# City of Crystal 2011 Budget

## How your city property taxes are spent



The City of Crystal will hold its annual budget public hearing and adopt the 2011 budget with the 2011 property tax levy at its regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7. Crystal residents are invited to attend the public hearing to express their opinions on the budget and the property tax levy.

This is the final step in a process that began this summer with budget work sessions and the September 7, 2010 adoption of a preliminary 2011 budget and property tax levy. For fiscal year 2011, the proposed general fund budget is \$12,097,663, a decrease of 0.25% from the amended 2010 budget. The 2011 general fund property tax levy was set at \$8,713,983, which is a \$383,046 (4.60%) increase over the 2010 property tax levy.

One major factor dominates the 2011 budget and drives the increase in the property tax levy. The City of Crystal is now projected to receive \$387,237 less in aid from the State in 2011 compared to the aid that was promised for 2010. This reduction is larger than for the entire increase in the General Fund property tax levy.

For the median value home, Crystal's portion of property taxes will be approximately \$685 in 2011, a decrease of \$3 from the 2010 taxes.

The tax levy proposed in September can be lowered for final adoption, but may not be increased.

The City Council set the proposed levy high enough so that they could be confident they could maintain current levels of City services to residents.

In addition to the reduction in Local Government Aid, other revenue items such as building permits and investment income are projected to decline for 2011.

The total budgeted expenses decrease by \$104,242 (0.85%) for 2011, when compared to the original adopted 2010 budget. This reduction is despite increases in some areas such as insurance and pensions that are beyond the control of the City.

Four major components make up the city's property tax levy. These include the General Fund, EDA Fund, and debt service levies for the pool bonds and the County Highway 81 bonds. The EDA's levy is being reduced to \$274,000. The EDA's role is to coordinate and promote commercial, industrial, and residential redevelopment efforts within Crystal. A property tax levy of \$207,400 will make the annual principal and interest payments on the Pool Bonds. A property tax levy

of \$535,565 will make the annual principal and interest payments on the County Highway 81 bonds.

Operations of a city are different from anything that most citizens have experienced and are often difficult to understand. A frequently-asked question is, "Why can't the City be like private business and live within its means instead of raising taxes during a recession?"

In the private sector, reduced revenue directly reflects a decrease in demand for products and services. The demand for City services is not directly tied to the economy. Demand for some services may increase during a recession and may decrease when the economy improves.

A decrease in the City's tax base and its aid from the State of Minnesota may be unrelated to the demand for its services. For instance:

- The demand for Police services may go up during an economic downturn due to increased domestic calls and property theft cases.
- The need for Fire services to protect homes and businesses is fairly constant during good and bad economic times.
- The demand for Streets, Parks, & Building services are a function of weather and the need to maintain & replace aging infrastructure.
- Construction projects may take years to plan & build and can't be started or stopped quickly.
- Debt service requirements for bonds

*continued on page 12*

# Heater Safety

**W**inter will soon be upon us and many households will be using heaters to keep warm. Chimneys and chimney connectors account for the largest share of heating-related fires, followed by portable and stationary space heaters. Because heating is a leading cause of home fire deaths, West Metro Fire-Rescue District (WMFRD) offers these reminders for safe use of heating devices.

The basics: Keep all flammables at least 3 feet away from stoves, fireplaces, portable heaters, and space heaters. Never use cooking appliances to heat your home. Have your central-heating system inspected and cleaned once a year or whenever you suspect a problem. Keep portable heaters at least 3 feet away from walls. Turn off portable space heaters when you leave the room or go to bed. Plug cords only into outlets with sufficient capacity and never into an extension cord.

Use extreme care when using kerosene heaters. Make sure the heater is listed for indoor use and only use the proper grade of kerosene, never gasoline or other fuels. Refuel kerosene heaters in a well-ventilated area

- preferably outside and only when the heater is cool.

Fixed-space heaters such as wood-burning stoves or gas-burning cabinet heaters should be installed by a professional. Make sure they are properly vented and cleaned regularly. Never use or store LP gas tanks in your home.

Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned regularly. Keep fireplaces clean and never burn paper or trash in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. Keep fireplace fires small, using a screen to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Allow ashes to cool completely before disposing of them in tightly-covered metal containers, never in boxes or bags.

With a little caution and working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, you and your family can be protected from the tragedy of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning. For more information about fire safety in your home or business, please contact WMFRD Prevention Staff at either 763-230-7005 or 763-230-7006 (Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.). **If you suspect carbon monoxide in your home or have any type of emergency, immediately dial 911.**

Visit WMFRD's website at [www.westmetrofire.com](http://www.westmetrofire.com)

## Road salt

Winter will soon arrive again, and with it comes snow, ice, and slippery pavement. What's the best way to keep yourself, family, and guests safe from slips and falls?

1. **Apply a liquid de-icer** before a big storm arrives to prevent ice buildup. A simple homemade brine of two cups of hot water mixed with one cup of salt in a spray bottle helps keep ice crystals from bonding to pavement and steps, making shoveling easier and more effective.
2. **Keep up with the shoveling.** Shoveling down to the pavement soon after a snowfall is your best defense. Winter air is very dry air, and small amounts of snow and ice can evaporate (sublimate) without ever melting.
3. **Sand to increase traction.**
4. **Salt to melt the ice.** However, not all salts are created equal.
  - Rock salt (Sodium Chloride) is only useful down to 15 degrees
  - Magnesium Chloride is good down to about 5 degrees
  - In colder weather, you need Calcium Chloride, which is effective down to -20 degrees

Therefore, in very cold weather, using more of the plain old rock salt won't do any good. Most of the salt spread out over the winter is carried by snow and ice melt and spring runoff into our lakes, streams, and wetlands, so the less you can get away with using, the

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# FOCUS ON ENFORCEMENT

## Snow removal

Be respectful of neighbors when shoveling, plowing, or blowing snow. It is a violation of City Code to plow, blow, shovel, or push snow from a property onto any street, sidewalk, or other public property. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow as soon as possible and always **within 12 hours** after a snowfall. If packed snow or ice accumulates, sidewalks should be treated with salt and/or sand to restore a safe walking surface.

Parking on city streets and alleys is prohibited after a snowfall of 1½ inches or more until the street has been plowed from curb to curb. Remember, regardless of the weather, **on-street parking is prohibited between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.** Parking violations should be reported to the Police Department by calling 911. Questions about snow removal on city streets should be directed to the Streets Department at 763-531-1164.

## Disposal of yard waste

Branches, wood, leaves, and other yard waste may only be stored in an approved garbage container, garage, or storage building. Most garbage companies do not pick up bundles of brush or bags of leaves with weekly pickup. Contact your garbage hauler to ask about special collection services and fees. If you schedule to have yard waste picked up at the curb, remember that it must be stored in an enclosed area, out of public view, prior to the night before collection. You can also contact the Maple Grove Yard Waste Drop-Off Site regarding their services.

### Maple Grove Yard Waste Drop-Off Site

14796 101st Avenue  
North,

Maple Grove

Phone: 763-420-4886

[www.mgyardwaste.com](http://www.mgyardwaste.com)

## Plan ahead

Planning to finish off your basement during the upcoming year? Replace your roof? Build a storage shed? Install a new driveway? If you are planning these types of projects or any other improvements to your property, chances are a permit will be required. If you have any questions about whether your project requires a permit, be sure to contact City staff before you begin. If a permit is required, it must be issued by the City prior to any work commencing. **Permit applications and handouts are available at City Hall or on the City's website.**

If you have any code enforcement-related questions or complaints, please contact the code enforcement and zoning administrator at 763-531-1143 or [jason.zimmermann@ci.crystal.mn.us](mailto:jason.zimmermann@ci.crystal.mn.us).

*Road Salt continued from page 4*

better. The chloride from salts is harmful to metal railings, concrete, grass, plants, and animals and can be difficult to clean up if it gets tracked onto floors. It also contaminates our drinking water and corrodes vehicles, roads, and bridges.

**Please shovel promptly, use some sand, and, if necessary, use just enough of the right salt for the conditions.**

**NOTE:**  
Parking on city streets and alleys is prohibited after a snowfall of 1½ inches or more until the street has been plowed from curb to curb.



## Wild animals



**F**all is the time of year when wild animals that prefer dark, enclosed areas may seek out a home on your property. The following techniques can help dissuade wild animals from taking up residence or obtaining food on your property:

- If you have a fireplace, place secure caps on your chimney and keep the damper closed when not in use.
- Place heavy gauge wire mesh (chicken wire or hardware cloth with ¼ inch mesh) around and under decks, sheds, and gardens. The mesh should be buried 6-12 inches and bent in an L-shape with at least eight inches going away from the structure. Be sure not to lock in any animals, especially young, behind the mesh. (Samples of exclusion fencing are shown in the photos above.)
- Do not store garbage or recycling bins outside, especially at night, to prevent their odors from attracting animals.
- Place portable grills inside at night to prevent the tempting smell of grilled food.
- Remove or relocate wood, brush, and compost piles.
- Stack firewood neatly, elevating it at least one foot off of the ground.
- Do not leave pet food out overnight and pick up any spilled food.
- When feeding birds, keep spilled seeds to a minimum. To prevent mammals from accessing the feeders, place poles at least six feet from any

surface (ground, deck, tree branch) from which a mammal could jump onto the feeder. Place conical-shaped baffles on the feeder pole to prevent mammals from climbing up.

Remember that it is illegal to discharge firearms (including BB and pellet guns), slingshots, and bows and arrows within city limits. The use of poisons outside of your home is also prohibited. Trapping is not recommended because there is no suitable place to relocate the animal. Also, it is a violation to relocate an animal to a new property without that homeowner's approval. If trap and relocate is done without following one of the above-mentioned techniques, another animal will find its way onto your property. Excluding wild animals is the best method for long-term success.

### Deer control

Animal Control is often asked how to prevent deer from eating garden plants. Signs of deer browsing include ragged, torn tips of twigs and plants, often at heights above three feet. Bucks rub their antlers on tree trunks and sturdy shrubs during the fall breeding season to remove the soft velvet covering of their antlers and to mark their territories. This action damages plants by stripping the bark. What to do?

- Landscape design can be done in a way to help limit the effects of deer browsing. Native plants tend to be

less affected by browsing than are cultivated plants.

- There are several commercially-produced chemical sprays available to repel deer and other animals; however, they have received mixed reviews on their effectiveness. The sprays usually have to be reapplied after heavy rains. Some homemade solutions have also been reported as effective, including scrambling one egg in a quart of water.
- Having a dog present may help deter deer from your yard.
- The most effective and permanent method of protecting landscape plants is with fencing. The fencing can consist of high-tensile strands wired to solid posts, woven mesh chain link, or electric wiring. Deer can jump up to 10-15 feet but generally do not jump unless stressed. If other forage is available, they will direct their attention there instead of going over a fence.

Deer are very wary and will avoid areas where they feel threatened or insecure.

To schedule a visit from Animal Control to assist you in determining the best strategy on how to control wild animals on your property, call 763-531-5161 or email [tom.mahan@ci.crystal.mn.us](mailto:tom.mahan@ci.crystal.mn.us). If a wild animal has entered your living space, Animal Control may help to safely capture and release it. For sick or injured animals or if an animal has bitten, call 911 immediately.

## Davis Group proposes medical clinic along Bottineau Boulevard



As this edition of the Crystal City Newsletter was going to press, the Davis Group, a Minneapolis-based company focused on medical office real estate, was proposing a new \$12 million, 43,000 sq. ft. medical clinic on a 4+ acre site on the east side of Bottineau Boulevard just south of Airport Road. Access to the redeveloped site would be provided by a new “backage road” being built by Hennepin County as part of its County Road 81 reconstruction project. Approximately half of the site is comprised of surplus county-owned land that the Hennepin County Board has authorized to sell to the Crystal Economic Development Authority (EDA). Prior to moving forward with the redevelopment, the Crystal EDA must formally authorize the purchase of the County-owned properties, and the Davis Group must successfully negotiate voluntary purchase agreements for adjacent commercial and residential properties to assemble a site of suitable size for the new clinic. The City anticipates that site and building plans will be submitted for Planning Commission and City Council review in early 2011, and construction will begin shortly thereafter. The new clinic will begin operations in spring 2012. Additional information will be posted to the City’s website as it becomes available.

## Move up - without moving out!

The EDA has lots available for construction of new single-family houses. For more information, pick up a list of available lots and detailed information packets at City Hall or download them from the Redevelopment page of the City’s website. If you wish to receive the EDA’s annual mailing about available lots, please leave your name, address, and phone number with the community development assistant at (763) 531-1144 or [corinne.elfelt@ci.crystal.mn.us](mailto:corinne.elfelt@ci.crystal.mn.us).



Lot for sale at 4343 Xenia



Lot for sale at 4633 Douglas Dr

So far in 2010, nine houses have been completed and sold, four lots have houses under construction, and builders have optioned two other lots. While most of these houses have been built for specific buyers, some may still be available and additional houses may be under construction by

the time you receive this newsletter. The best way to find out which new homes are available is to check local real estate listings (available online at most realtors’ websites).

### New houses under construction



5708 Elmhurst



4807 Idaho

## HOME IMPROVEMENT ASSISTANCE

### HousingResource Center - Northwest

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

Do you have technical questions about a potential home repair or remodeling project? Are you interested in Crystal's Home Improvement Rebate program or other financial assistance for home improvements? The HousingResource Center is available to help residents of Crystal with these and other home improvement questions. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on the 4th Saturday of each month. Services are free of charge to residents of Crystal and some adjacent communities.

### Home Improvement Incentive Rebates

In addition to various state and federal loan programs, many Crystal homeowners are eligible for an EDA-funded rebate for a portion of home improvement costs.

- To qualify, the property must be owner occupied and the project must have a total cost of at least \$2,000.
- Eligibility depends on your household income:
  - If it doesn't exceed \$42,000, then you may be eligible for a 25% rebate\*
  - If it doesn't exceed \$67,200, then you may be eligible for a 20% rebate\*
  - If it doesn't exceed \$100,800, then you may be eligible for a 15% rebate\*

\* The EDA has enough funds to maintain these rebate percentages for approximately one more year. However, in late 2011, the rebate percentages will probably be reduced to enable the program to continue at lower funding levels.

- A property may not receive more than \$10,000 from the program per year.
- **To receive the rebate, you must submit an application and receive approval from the HousingResource Center before you start your project.**
- Eligibility guidelines and other provisions of the program may change without notice.
- For more information or to get an application, please call the HousingResource Center at (612) 588-3033.

### Holiday online shopping safety tips

Online shopping has become more popular due to everyone's busy lives. Below are some safety tips to be aware of when utilizing the web:

- Do not respond to unsolicited (spam) e-mail
- Purchasing gift cards from auction sites or classified ads can be risky. If you are purchasing a gift card, it is safest to purchase it directly from the merchant.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail
- Avoid filling out forms contained in e-mail messages that ask for your personal information
- Always compare the link in the e-mail to the link you are actually directed to and determine if they match and will lead you to a legitimate site
- Contact the business that supposedly sent the e-mail to verify if the e-mail is genuine

The most important holiday shopping tip is to have a fun and safe holiday season!

### Staying informed about city projects

The City regularly receives applications for projects that require planning commission and/or City Council approval. Information on these, as well as many other city projects, is regularly updated on the City's website. If you'd like to stay informed, visit this website to review City Council/EDA agendas and meeting packets and Planning Commission agendas. These are posted the Friday before each meeting.

You may also sign up for electronic news through e-Subscribe and receive updates on city projects directly to your e-mail in-box.

Consider the City's website as an important news source for you and your family!

### Notice to Facebook users

The Crystal City Council and Community Development, Police, and Recreation Departments all have their own Facebook pages, so sign up to become a fan today!





## Street reconstruction program resumes in 2011

After a project public hearing on October 19, the City Council ordered the Phase 11 Broadway Park Street Reconstruction Project. Final design and the public bidding process will be completed by the end of March 2011. Construction is set to begin in late April. The project area is that part of Crystal west of West Broadway, east of Winnetka Avenue, south of the Brooklyn Park border, and north of Bass Lake Road (see map).

The project involves the reconstruction of all 3.8 miles of local streets fronting on 330 land parcels, plus additions and upgrades to the storm sewer system, a proposed sidewalk on the south side of 58th Avenue, and the

replacement of gas mains and gas services. In fact, gas main replacement began in September to get a jump on spring construction. The project also includes the installation of a number of rain gardens scattered throughout the neighborhood. Rain gardens located in the public boulevard become a public amenity and treat rainfall runoff before it enters streams and lakes.

The estimated total project cost is \$3,758,041. The project is funded through a combination of special assessments to the benefiting property owners, State Aid gas tax dollars, and funds from the Storm Drain Utility and the Street Reconstruction Fund. The proposed residential property special assessment is \$4,917 for the street plus

\$18.88 per front foot for new curb and gutter. Once levied (probably in late April 2011), the entire assessment, or any portion thereof (minimum of \$100), can be paid within 30 days with no interest. If nothing is paid, the assessment will go onto the parcel property tax statement over a 15-year period at an interest rate as yet to be determined.

If you have any questions regarding this project, contact the project manager at 763-531-1161 or [mick.cyert@ci.crystal.mn.us](mailto:mick.cyert@ci.crystal.mn.us). As always, children and adults alike, please be safe while in construction areas.

# Citizen participation in local government

**C**ity advisory boards and commissions provide excellent opportunities for citizen participation in issues facing the community. The City Council values the comments and recommendations it receives from the various boards and commissions and encourages qualified candidates to apply. There are many choices for citizen involvement, as listed below. For more information about these voluntary positions or for an application, visit the City's website or contact the city clerk at 763-531-1145 or [janet.lewis@ci.crystal.mn.us](mailto:janet.lewis@ci.crystal.mn.us).

## **Employee Review Board (ERB)**

The ERB hears and rules on organized employee grievances after normal grievance procedures have been completed. One alternate vacancy exists on this 5-member commission. Applicants may be from the city at large. The board meets at the call of the chair.

## **Environmental Quality Commission (EQC)**

The EQC advises the City Council on the conservation of environmental resources and environmental issues. Eight vacancies exist on this 10-member commission. Applicants may be from the city at large. Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

## **Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council (NWHHSC)**

The NWHHSC participates in regional human services research, planning, and coordination for this agency that supports residents in 15 cities in northwest Hennepin County. Residents from member cities are appointed by their City Councils to identify human services issues, solutions, and best practices. Two vacancies exist on this commission for Crystal representation. Visit [www.nwhhsc.org](http://www.nwhhsc.org) for more information. Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

## **Human Rights Commission (HRC)**

The HRC advises the City Council in matters and problems relating to discrimination issues as well as working to improve human relations, attitude, and a positive behavior climate in the city. Five vacancies exist on this 10-member commission. Applicants may be from the city at large. Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m.

## **Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC)**

The PRC advises the City Council and promotes the systematic, comprehensive development of park facilities and recreational activities necessary for the physical, mental, emotional, and moral health and well-being of its residents. Three vacancies exist on this 10-member commission (one each in Wards 1 and 2 and one at large). Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

## **Shingle Creek Watershed Management Organization (SCWMO)**

The SCWMO has one vacancy (as an alternate member) on this commission that jointly manages the water resources to enhance water quality within its watersheds. This commission is composed of representatives from the cities of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale. Applicants for Crystal may be from the city at large. Meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 12:45 p.m. at Lancer's of Edinburgh. Visit [www.shinglecreek.org](http://www.shinglecreek.org) for more information.

# RECYCLING NEWS YOU CAN USE...AND REUSE!



## Do I have hazardous waste in my house?



Most people don't think of household cleaners and supplies being hazardous waste, but that is exactly what they are. Unwanted chemicals are considered household hazardous waste (HHW) when their disposal poses an environmental or health threat. People who dispose of HHW in the trash, down the drain, or on the ground, can contaminate our water and soils, or harm trash collectors. If you can't use up HHW, give the items to someone who will, or take these items to the Hennepin County Recycling Center for FREE disposal at 8100 Jefferson Hwy. just minutes away in Brooklyn Park. Please visit [www.hennepin.us](http://www.hennepin.us) for more information.

What do you have in your house that is HHW? To name a few, they would be gasoline, antifreeze, weed killer, mothballs, nail polish/remover, mercury thermometers, paint, thinner, stain, roofing tar, and much more. If you don't know how to dispose of something, call 763-493-8006 for help in getting rid of it.

## Free oil recycling

Did you know you can now recycle used oil for free outside the Brooklyn Park Operations & Maintenance Facility at 8300 Noble Avenue North, 24 hours a day? This is the same lot where the Special Material Drop-Off event is held. For more information, call 763-493-8006.



## America Recycles Day - November 15

Once a year it is good to remember that we can all do a better job of recycling...and November 15 (America Recycles Day), is a great day to do it. Just what is recyclable? Most people know the recycling basics like newspaper, magazines, junk mail, boxes, metal cans, glass and plastic bottles, but did you know that you can also recycle milk cartons, juice boxes, soup and broth cartons? Take your recycling a step further. Visit [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org) and take the recycling pledge. Happy recycling!



# CITY CALENDAR

## Upcoming Council Meetings

Time: .....7:00 p.m.

Dates: .....December 7 and 21  
January 4 and 18  
February 1 and 15

Citizens Input Time .....6:00 - 6:30 p.m.  
January 18 and February 15

All City meetings are open to the public and are broadcast live on channel 16. Meetings are rebroadcast the following Sunday at 6:30 p.m. or watch meetings from your computer by visiting [www.ci.crystal.mn.us](http://www.ci.crystal.mn.us), under *e-Services*, go to *OnDemand Council/EDA Meeting Videos*.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

ReNae Bowman (Mayor) ..... 763-531-2074

David B. Anderson  
(Section I, Wards 1 & 2) .....763-531-1007

Mark Hoffmann (Ward 1)\* ..... 763-531-1006

Joseph Selton (Ward 2)\* .....763-535-3564

Laurie Ann Moore  
(Section II, Wards 3 & 4)\* ..... 763-531-1003

Janet Moore (Ward 3) ..... 763-531-1005

Timothy Hoppe (Ward 4)\*\* ..... 763-531-1002

*\*These 4-year terms are up for election November 2 (expiring 12/31/2014).*

*\*\*Due to a resignation, this unexpired term will be on the ballot for a term expiring 1/7/2013.*

**Please note:** The winners of the November 2 election were not known in time for this publication. Visit the City's website to view the winners of the local races.

# COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Visit our website at

[www.ci.crystal.mn.us](http://www.ci.crystal.mn.us)

City Manager: Anne Norris

## CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT RECORDS UNIT HOURS

Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

## FREQUENTLY-CALLED NUMBERS

Main Switchboard .. 763-531-1000	Police Records .....763-531-1014
Animal Control.....763-531-5161	Police/Fire
Assessing .....763-531-1118	Emergency ..... 911
Code Enforcement ..... 763-531-1143	Recycling (HRG).... 763-493-8006
Community Center/ Recreation..... 763-531-0052	Rental Properties ....763-531-1144
Crime Tip Hotline... 763-531-1020	Streets.....763-531-1164
Elections/Voting ..... 763-531-1145	Utilities .....763-531-1166
Engineering .....763-531-1161	Utility Billing..... 763-531-1114
Fire (West Metro Fire-Rescue District) .....763-230-7000	Zoning.....763-531-1143
Forester..... 763-531-1162	Deaf and hard-of-hearing callers should contact the MN Relay Service at 711 or 1-800-627-3529 V/TTY
Job Line..... 763-531-1175	
Parks ..... 763-531-1158	

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were set at the time the bonds were sold and can't be changed.

- The need for Code Enforcement services goes up during an economic downturn as building owners neglect to maintain their properties or abandon them.
- The need for locally-based, low-cost Recreation services may go up during an economic downturn as residents can't afford the higher cost of private sector for-profit services.

In addition, the City Council reviews the demand for and cost of all its services and prioritizes them in each annual budget cycle. It is the City Council's responsibility to balance the many competing interests across the community to provide the mix of services funded through the budget that, in their judgment, is in the long-term strategic interest of the community as a whole.

The City Council's focus for the 2011 budget is on maintaining the current service levels to the extent possible and maintaining existing facilities and equipment. Some parts of the budget may change based on citizen input and final City Council approval at the December meeting.

If you have budget questions, please contact the finance director at 763-531-1110 or [charles.hansen@ci.crystal.mn.us](mailto:charles.hansen@ci.crystal.mn.us).