



FREE
ADMISSION!

northwest suburban REMODELING FAIR

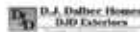
Saturday, April 2, 2011 • 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
CRYSTAL COMMUNITY CENTER
4800 Douglas Drive, Crystal, MN

Incentives for Energy Efficiency
How to Install Tile Flooring
Basics of Building a Deck
Kitchen Cabinet Refacing
Quick & Easy Landscaping Tips
How to Install Laminate Flooring
New Kitchen Remodeling Ideas
Advanced Vegetable Gardening
Update Ideas for Bathrooms
Perennial Flower Gardening
and **MORE!**

Attend **"Do-It-Yourself"** workshops scheduled throughout the day. Visit with **86** local exhibitors. Bring your house plans to the **"Ask the Experts"** booth hosted by AIA registered architects. Bring your questions for city fire and building experts about local codes/ordinances and general contracting information.

Brought to you by the cities of:

Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Maple Grove,
New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale



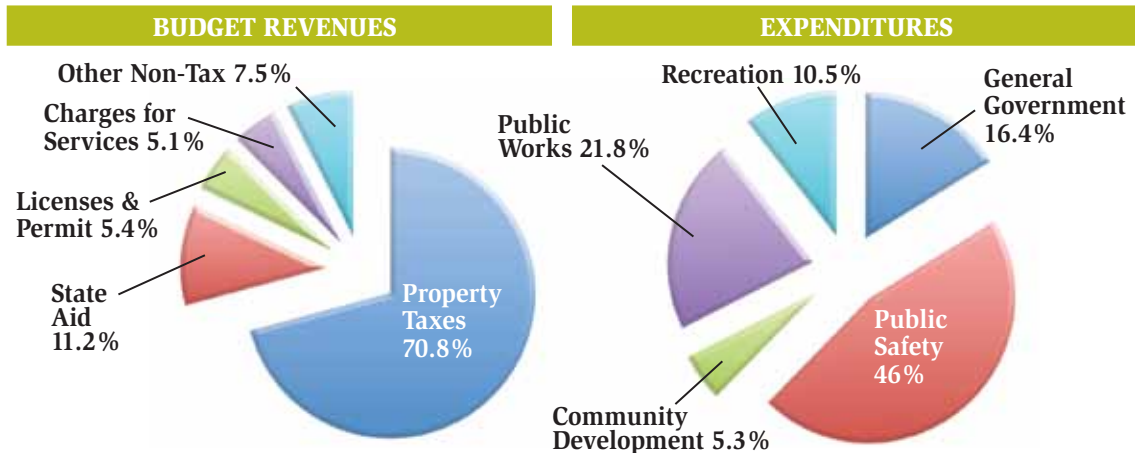
FREE WORKSHOPS!

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

City of Crystal
City Hall
4141 Douglas Drive North
Crystal, MN 55422

General Fund 2011



The City of Crystal 2011 Budget

The City of Crystal adopted the 2011 budget and tax levy at the regular City Council meeting on Tuesday, December 21, 2010. The adopted 2011 property tax levy is \$9,469,948, which is a \$97,146 or 1.04% increase over the 2010 tax levy.

The reason for the tax increase is a projected reduction of \$400,000 in aid promised to the City of Crystal by the State of Minnesota. State aid is meant to ensure that less-wealthy cities are able to provide a basic level of services to their residents.

Also offsetting the loss of state aid is a reduction in the General Fund budget of \$268,242 or 2.2% compared to the adopted 2010 budget. The reduction is achieved primarily through personnel cutbacks and reductions in capital outlays.

As this article is being written, it is known that the State is facing continued budget shortfalls which could result in greater reductions in state aid to Crystal. Any further reductions in state aid will affect city operations in 2011.

Holding the line on expenditures and maintaining what we have were priorities in the 2011 budget. The only increase in the budget is a provision for some evening hours at the pool. Several existing operating programs were trimmed. Three full-time staff positions that opened were each replaced by a half-time position. Some reductions in the maintenance of the city's streets and parks may become visible.

The city's budget includes the General Fund, debt service funds, capital project funds, and utility funds. Most of the services that people normally associate with cities are included in the General Fund. The two graphs illustrate how the city's General Fund raises money and the services it provides.

Property taxes are the largest source of revenues. State aid is second, but is large enough so that losing a portion of it will significantly reduce the budget.

Public safety is the highest priority of the city and commands the largest part of the budget. Public works is responsible for maintaining the city's streets, parks, and buildings. A significant part of the recreation budget is funded by user fees.

The City Council's focus is on maintaining quality, cost-effective services to its residents. Highlights of the 2011 budget include the following:

- \$97,146 or 1.04% increase in the property tax levy
- projected reduction of \$400,000 of state aid from State of Minnesota
- addition of some evening hours at the pool
- Phase 11 street improvement project will begin construction in 2011

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

Juvenile shoplifting is a community problem

For over thirty years, the Crystal Police Department has offered educational seminars for first-time, misdemeanor juvenile offenders who have been caught stealing. A misdemeanor theft is defined by merchandise that is stolen which costs \$500 or less. The seminar is a voluntary police diversion program that is offered as an alternative to a referral to juvenile court. A parent or guardian must attend the seminar with the juvenile. The seminar uses the Restorative Justice Model and begins with a presentation about how stealing negatively impacts the community.

Jacob Hoffman from the Crystal Target Store's Asset Protection Department teaches young people about the impact of stealing from stores, which includes raising prices to compensate for the large losses incurred from people who steal. This means that everyone pays more for those items. In addition, stores must install expensive security cameras that capture the activities of those who steal. The cost of this equipment to deter shoplifting is also passed on to the consumer. People should remember that what they do is being monitored whether in a store or parking lot near a store.

Statistically, about 25% of those apprehended for shoplifting are juveniles. One in five adult shoplifters has reported that they started shoplifting in their teens. Most shoplifters have the money to pay for the items at the time of their apprehension but have chosen to steal rather than purchase the item. Males and females shoplift with equal frequency. Most do not plan in advance to shoplift but impulsively make the decision while in the store.

Theft hurts and victimizes people, businesses, and the community. Parents of juveniles caught stealing are often embarrassed, sad, or angry that their child would steal. Parents love their children and want what is best for them.

Seminars are held to address this community problem approximately every five weeks. At the seminar, each juvenile is asked to tell the group how they ended up in trouble and what they were thinking at the time. Parents have a chance to share how they felt when they learned their child was taken into police custody. The majority of apprehended youth who attend the seminar do not shoplift again. Juveniles who do not attend the seminar receive a citation that will go to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office to be reviewed for charges.

Juvenile records regarding misdemeanor thefts are confidential and are destroyed when a juvenile reaches adulthood. A person over 18 years of age who commits a misdemeanor theft will be given a court date. If convicted of theft, the person could get up to 90 days in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine. The arrest of a person over 18 years of age is public information and the person will have a permanent criminal record.

For further information, contact Susan J. Carstens, Psy.D. Juvenile Specialist with the Crystal Police Department, phone 763-531-1023 or email susan.carstens@ci.crystal.mn.us.



RECYCLING NEWS YOU CAN USE . . . AND REUSE!

Spring Special Material Drop-Off Day

Saturday, May 7, 2011

8 AM to 3 PM

O&M Facility, 8300 Noble Ave. N.

Phone: 763-493-8007



No Charge — Electronics such as TVs, VCRs, DVD/MP3 Players, Stereos, Printers, Computers, Monitors, Cell Phones, etc. Antifreeze, Motor Oil & Oil Filters, Household and Vehicle Batteries, Bicycles (for reuse), and Scrap Metal (remove non-metal parts)

Charge — Appliances (\$10 each), Residential Air Conditioners (\$15 each), and Tires (\$1 to \$15 each based on size)

Northwest Family Physicians Medical Clinic (5700 Bottineau Blvd)

A private developer has submitted site and building plans for a new \$12 million, 43,000 sq. ft. medical clinic to be located on the east side of Bottineau Boulevard south of Airport Road. The clinic would be accessed from the new “backage road” being built by Hennepin County as part of its County Road 81 reconstruction project. The clinic would provide Northwest Family Physicians with a new, state-of-the-art facility for their practice plus additional space for other medical tenants. The developer is purchasing approximately half of the 4 acre site from Hennepin County through the Crystal EDA. For the other half, the developer has negotiated voluntary purchase agreements with private property own-



Proposed medical clinic at 5700 Bottineau Blvd.

ers. The Planning Commission and City Council will consider plans in March and April, respectively. Construction is expected to begin later this spring with completion in early 2012. You may view the submitted plans on the Planning & Zoning page of the city website.

WANTED:

Crystal Police Department Volunteers

The Crystal Police Department is looking for a few good men and women to volunteer in various roles at our agency. Consider one of the following areas: Police Reserve, Police Explorer, Volunteer in Police Service (VIP), or Citizens on Patrol (COP). Read the descriptions below and contact us if you are interested in any of these important roles to the City of Crystal and the Crystal Police Department.

Police Reserve: Crystal Police Reserves assist with vehicle tows, house checks, medicals, vehicle lockouts, traffic control, and many other tasks. They also help with civic events such as, parades, Crystal Frolics, school events, MN Night to Unite, and other various events. If you are interested in becoming a Reserve Officer, contact Sgt. Rob Erkenbrack at 763-531-1019 or rob.erkenbrack@ci.crystal.mn.us.

Police Explorer: The Explorers is a volunteer organization chartered through the Learning for Life career education program and consists of males and females between the ages of 14 and 20. Explorers are given the chance to “explore” law enforcement with plenty of hands-on participation. If you are interested in becoming an Explorer please contact Sgt. Mark Peterson (information listed below).

VIPS & COPS: Volunteers in Police Service are citizens who would work at our Neighborhood Outreach Office located at the Crystal Shopping Center. They answer telephones and refer walk-in customers to the appropriate police department unit. Citizens on Patrol are citizens who will perform “routine patrol” though neighborhoods, parks, and shopping areas in a marked police volunteer vehicle looking for suspicious activity or anything “out of the ordinary” and being an extra set of eyes and ears for the police department. If you are interested in either of these important roles please contact Sgt. Mark Peterson at 763-531-1033 or mark.peterson@ci.crystal.mn.us.

All about trees: when the branches break

It is important to remember that ALL tree trimmers working in Crystal MUST have a city-issued license to perform work. The licensing process includes verifying that each tree trimmer is qualified, insured, and bonded. This list of licensed tree trimmers is available by contacting City Hall at 763-531-1000 or by visiting the city website.

Question: My boulevard tree has broken branches that hang over the street and on my property. Who is responsible for that boulevard tree?

Answer: Boulevard trees (typically, those growing within the first fifteen feet from the curb) are owned by and cared for by the city. The city forester inspects boulevard trees and recommends the appropriate care for them.

Question: The house behind mine is a vacant property. There's tree damage on the property following the last storm and a large branch from that tree fell on my shed. What can be done?

Answer: Contact the forester to evaluate the current threat from the breakage. If the tree/branch threatens public safety, the city may be able to correct the problem. However, if the threat extends only to private property, the property owner is responsible for the tree.

Question: A tree branch is resting on the power line that connects to my house. Will Xcel trim this tree branch for me? If so, who should I call?

Answer: Call Xcel's tree clearance number first (651-282-1300). If the power line is a primary line (pole-to-pole), Xcel will

assist with this problem. If the power line is a service line to your home, Xcel is likely not to get involved, unless they believe widespread outages could occur. Then, it is your responsibility to call an arborist licensed in Crystal to trim the tree. Please do not try to handle this problem yourself. Let the experts do this.

Question: If a storm downs a boulevard tree on my property, will the city remove the tree for me?

Answer: Yes, as budgets allow, the city will remove the downed tree and put in a replacement boulevard tree.

Question: If a storm downs many trees in one neighborhood, how will the city help?

Answer: After a big storm, the city's first responsibility is to clear the main roads of trees and debris and then other roads, as necessary. This means that high volume routes that connect major sections of the city and provide access for emergency, fire, and police services are cleared first. After a storm, the city tries to address widespread public tree loss with reforestation, as budgets allow.

Question: How can I help maintain boulevard trees?

Answer: The city asks that residents and businesses water and care for boulevard trees. Keep weed whips and other equipment away from the tree trunk. When mulching around the tree, leave the area right next to the trunk mulch-free (a donut shape).



Yard Waste Site Opens April 1

Another sign of spring returning is the opening of the Maple Grove Yard Waste site on April 1. Residents can bring grass clippings, leaves, brush, and tree branches up to 10-inches in diameter to the site for free. Hours are Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon to 7 p.m. The address of the site is 14796 - 101st Ave. N., Maple Grove. For more information visit www.mgyard-waste.com or call 763-420-4886.

Storms can cause a variety of problems for residents from downed trees to power outages. The City of Crystal receives many questions about who is responsible for maintaining trees, both before and after a storm. Here are some commonly asked questions by residents and answers from city staff.

***Note - Many usable household items can be disposed/exchanged for free through an online bulletin board at**

www.twincitiesfreemarket.org

FOCUS ON ENFORCEMENT

Property Maintenance

Crystal's Property Maintenance Code is part of the city's strategy to preserve the long term stability and livability of our neighborhoods by protecting the life, health, and safety of city residents, preventing the emergence of blighted and deteriorated housing, and maintaining property values in the city.

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

If you are considering home renovations, please take advantage of the free construction consultations, financial incentives for home improvements, and other assistance available from the Housing Resource Center at 2148 - 44th Ave N in Minneapolis. You may contact them at 612-588-3033 or visit their website at www.housingresourcecenter.org. The Housing Resource Center serves residents of Minneapolis, Crystal and many other cities in the metro area.

It is also important to keep yards free of litter. Whether it is old appliances, tires, or excess materials from a project, it does not take much for an unsightly accumulation of these materials to build up. City Code

requires that all litter be stored in an approved garbage container, garage or storage building. In addition to household garbage, appliances, furniture and miscellaneous junk, "litter" also includes motor vehicles, trailers, recreational vehicles and equipment that are inoperable, unlicensed, partially dismantled or abandoned.

If you have code enforcement-related questions, please contact the Code Enforcement and Zoning Administrator at 763-531-1143 or via email at jason.zimmermann@ci.crystal.mn.us.

Driveways

Spring is a good time to think about installing or replacing a driveway or parking space. Crystal requires hard surfaced driveways, meaning 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 by the City Engineer on a case-by-case basis. Existing rock, gravel or dirt driveways and parking spaces must be hard surfaced within 180 days of the sale of the property or issuance of a rental license.

Permits are required prior to commencing work on a new driveway or reconstructing an existing driveway. More information is available at www.ci.crystal.mn.us under Quick Links for Residents, Construction Handouts. You may also contact the front desk at 763-531-1000 for more information.

Rental Licensing

The City of Crystal requires the annual licensing and inspection of any dwelling unit in the city occupied by someone other than the property owner. This is required even if no cash rent is exchanged. For example, relative homesteads and "rent-to-own" properties must also secure a rental license. Before occupancy occurs, the owner must apply for the rental license and complete the inspection. If a property is occupied before a rental license is issued, then the license fee will be doubled. Answers to most of your questions about rental licensing requirements can be found on the Rental Licensing page of the city's website at www.ci.crystal.mn.us. For additional information, you may contact the Community Development Assistant at 763-531-1144 or corinne.elfelt@ci.crystal.mn.us.

Attention property owners

Making plans to sell your home? If so, call 763-531-1000 to inquire about the mandatory housing maintenance inspection. Information is also available on the city's website. You may not close on your home sale without having a Housing Maintenance Compliance Certificate in hand at the time of closing. This is your responsibility as the seller, so call TODAY if planning to sell.

Firefighters fighting hunger

The West Metro Fire-Rescue District Employees and Auxiliary are working together to fight hunger in our community by collecting non-perishable food items and monetary donations to benefit the Emergency Foodshelf Network www.emergencyfoodshelf.org



The Emergency Foodshelf Network helps provide food to many of our local area food shelves which are severely depleted due to the tough economy. This is an opportunity to join together and make a difference for our neighbors who are in need.

On Saturday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., West Metro Fire-Rescue District Firefighters and Fire Department vehicles will be at collection points in the parking lots of:

- Almsted's Super Valu, 4200 Douglas Dr. N., Crystal
- Cub Foods, 5301 36th Ave. N., Crystal
- K-mart, 4300 Xylon Ave. N, New Hope
- Thriftway, 5715 West Broadway Ave., Crystal

As you shop for groceries at one of these stores, please consider picking up a few additional items to donate.

Monetary donations may also be mailed to or dropped off



at our Fire Station #3 (District Headquarters, 4251 Xylon Avenue North, New Hope, MN 55428) weekdays between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. or anytime that crews are present by or before

Firefighters continued on page 12

Crystal working towards better lakes and streams

The City of Crystal manages projects aimed at improving the water that flows into our local lakes and streams. Crystal works closely with watershed management organizations for Bassett Creek and Shingle Creek, as well as with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, to identify projects and achieve the goal of reducing the number of pollutants coming from water surface runoff.

On Bass Lake Road, there is a large pond that was built near Regent Ave, on the north side of Twin Oak Park. This pond will treat water runoff from an area stretching to the west well into New Hope. This water previously was piped directly into Upper Twin Lake.

Another sizeable project has begun on the east side of Crystal Airport. After much study, it was determined that this large wetland was contributing phosphorus to the water that flows through it. A diversion channel was installed to allow most of the water to bypass the wetland, which should remain a marsh, unless this area experiences prolonged drought. Construction on this project should be underway this spring.

On a smaller scale, the recent street reconstruction projects have included many boulevard raingardens and some larger "city" raingardens which divert, delay, and infiltrate some of the street water runoff. One of these new city raingardens is at the corner of 48th and Xenia Avenues in Welcome Park. This year, the city is investigating the construction of shallow boulevard swales, which will function like a raingarden but are simply planted with sod. The raingardens and swales are small, but many of these added together will make a difference towards better lakes and streams.

There are erosion-control projects scheduled for the North Branch of Bassett Creek (which is south of Bassett Creek Park) and for another creek that runs from 36th Ave and Douglas Drive to the park. Urban development and unstable stream banks have teamed up to create erosion along these waterways. Plans include clearing the "weed" trees along the banks, planting cover vegetation and strategically placing rock structures to slow and divert the stream flow.

To view a map showing the location of these projects, visit the City website under "Current Public Works Projects" in the Public Works area: http://www.ci.crystal.mn.us/city_departments/public_works.html.

Utility discounts and rental rebates

Utility discounts

Have you recently turned age 65? Are you receiving Social Security disability benefits? The city offers utility bill discounts for owners of homesteaded properties who are age 65 or older or receiving Social Security disability benefits. To start receiving the discount of \$8.57 per quarter, please bring proof of your age (driver's license, Minnesota ID, etc.) or Social Security disability letter to City Hall and complete a discount application. The discounted rates will go into effect on your next bill.

Rental/Condo rebates

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 rebate equal to the amount of the discount described above, up to a maximum of \$34.28 per year. To apply for the rental/condo rebate for 2010, please bring proof of your age (driver's license, Minnesota ID, etc.) or Social Security disability letter, plus a copy of your Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) form to City Hall and complete an application by March 31, 2011. For those in condominiums, your name must be listed as the owner of the condominium on Hennepin County's website.

For those who have previously signed up for the rental/condo rebate, please remember to send a copy of your 2010 CRP form to City Hall by March 31, 2011. The mailing address is: City of Crystal, Attn.: Utility Billing, 4141 Douglas Dr N, Crystal, MN 55422.

Application for dog license

City Ordinance requires all dogs to be licensed with the city. Now it's easier than ever to license your dog – you can send in this application along with proof of your dog's current rabies vaccination and remit the appropriate license fee (see below). If your dog is currently licensed, but the tag is lost, duplicate licenses are available for \$1 (proof of rabies vaccination will be required).

Dog licenses expire when the rabies vaccination becomes due. If you have questions, please call 763-531-1013.

Name of Dog Owner: _____
First Middle Initial Last

Address: _____
Zip

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Work Ph: _____

Dog's Name: _____ Male ___ Female Breed: _____

Dog's Color: _____ Spayed/Neutered? ___Yes ___No

(FEE: \$15 per dog if spayed/neutered; \$30 if unaltered.)

Make check payable to "City of Crystal". Mail this application along with a copy of the current rabies vaccination form and a check for the appropriate fee to: City of Crystal



Attn: Dog Licenses
4141 Douglas Dr N
Crystal, MN 55422

Upon receipt of the above-listed items, a dog license and tag will be mailed to you.

Thank you!

Property Valuation Notices will be mailed in March

The Hennepin County Assessor's office is in the process of setting the values and classifications for the 2011 assessment which is the basis for taxes payable in 2012. The 2011 assessment is based on sales that occurred from October of 2009 through September of 2010.

The 2011 Property Valuation Notices are scheduled to be mailed to property owners in early March. Please review this statement. If you have questions regarding your property's estimated market value, please call 763-531-1117, prior to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting on April 5, 2011 at Crystal City Hall in the Council Chambers. Many property owners' concerns can be explained or resolved simply by making a phone call to the assessors and/or scheduling an appointment for the assessors to walk through the property.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (EDA) UPDATE

Scattered Site Redevelopment— Lots for Sale

For the past few decades the EDA has been buying blighted, structurally substandard or functionally obsolete houses from willing sellers, demolishing them and selling the resulting vacant lots to builders for construction of new single family houses. The EDA currently has 33 lots available.

LOTS FOR SALE



3533 Lee



5700 Regent

For more information you can pick up a list of EDA lots and detailed information packets at City Hall or download them from the Redevelopment page of the city website. If you wish to receive the EDA's annual mailing about available lots, please leave your name, address and phone number with Corinne Elfelt at 763-531-1144 or corinne.elfelt@ci.crystal.mn.us.

NEW HOMES FOR SALE



4807 Idaho



5722 Oregon Ct

In 2010, thirteen lots were sold and a new house was built on each. All of these houses have been sold.

Also available is a new house at 5722 Oregon Ct, which was completed in February 2011 on a lot the EDA sold in 2006.

HOME IMPROVEMENT ASSISTANCE

HousingResource Center - Northwest

2148 44th Ave N, Minneapolis

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 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 9 a.m.–1 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*

**Due to funding constraints, the rebate percentages probably will be reduced in the fourth quarter of 2011, depending on the rate of expenditure during the first three quarters.*

- 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 or visit their website at www.housingresourcecenter.org/

County Road 81 Detour and Bridge Closure March 14



As part of the County Road 81 (Bottineau Boulevard) Reconstruction Project, it is necessary to replace the bridge over the Canadian Pacific Railway. Hennepin County will close the ENTIRE roadway between Corvallis Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard from March 14 to early November, 2011.

For northbound traffic, the detour will begin by heading west on Corvallis Avenue to a temporary signal at West Broadway. Traffic will be directed to Bass Lake Road and then east back to County Road 81. For southbound traffic, the detour will be the same route in reverse. The segment between BLR and Wilshire Boulevard will remain open for local traffic only.

Throughout 2011, there will be intermittent changes from two lanes to one lane each direction, as traffic is shifted back and forth between the southbound and northbound lanes while the work proceeds.

This is a Hennepin County improvement project funded by a combination of municipal, county, state, and federal funds. If you have questions, please contact the Crystal Engineering Department at 763-531-1161, or email Crystal City Engineer Tom Mathisen at tmathisen@ci.crystal.mn.us.

As always, please drive safely in construction areas and monitor children in the neighborhood that may be attracted to the project area.



Commission Members continued from page 11

- Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- Eight vacancies exist on this 10-member commission.
- Staff liaison Kim Therres, 763-531-1132

Highlights from 2010: Participated in the Adopt a Park program by cleaning up MAC Park and educated residents on environmental issues through the City website.

Human Rights Commission (HRC)

- Advises on matters and problems relating to discrimination issues as well as working to improve human relations, attitude, and a positive behavior climate in the city.
- Meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Six vacancies exist on this 10-member commission.
- Staff liaison John Banick, 763-531-1010

Highlights from 2010: Helped initiate the Crime Pre-

vention Board, recommended a proclamation opposing Arizona Senate bill 1070, the "Support Our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act", and participated in the city's 50th Anniversary celebration.

How to apply, in four easy steps:

- Step 1** Download an application from the city website or contact the city at 763.531.1000 to have one mailed to you
- Step 2** Return the completed application to the city clerk
- Step 3** Participate in an interview with the mayor or mayor pro tem, commission chair, and council liaison of the commission
- Step 4** Attend a council meeting to be formally appointed to the commission

All commission meetings are open to the public. Please contact staff liaisons to learn more about meeting locations, dates, and times.

City Council seeks advisory commission members

Advisory commissions provide for citizen participation on issues concerning the city and its residents. The City Council values the comments and recommendations from the various advisory boards and commissions. There are many choices for citizen involvement. If you'd like more information about these voluntary positions, you may visit the city's website or contact the staff liaison of each commission listed below. We welcome your calls of interest. The following commissions are seeking applicants:

Planning Commission

- Designated as the planning agency of the City in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 462.354.
- Meetings are held monthly on the second Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- One vacancy exists in Ward 4 on this 9-member commission.
- Staff liaison John Sutter, 763-531-1142

Highlights from 2010: Land use applications considered included replacement of a vacant commercial property at 48th and Idaho with three new single-family homes, a telecommunications tower at Cub Foods (later withdrawn), and a Comprehensive Plan amendment to set the stage for a medical clinic to be built on County Road 81 between Bass Lake Road and Airport Road.

Parks & Recreation Commission (PRC)

- Promotes the systematic, comprehensive development of park facilities and recreational activities.
- Meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- Three vacancies exist in Wards 1 and 2 on this 10-member commission.
- Staff liaison Gene Hackett, 763-531-1150

Highlights from 2010: Opened a Dog Off-Leash area at Bassett Creek Park, implemented the Long Range Parks Plan, applied and received a sports grant for a soccer field at Forest School, and was involved in many community events.

Home Rule Charter Commission

- Studies issues and makes recommendations on proposed changes to the Home Rule Charter which outlines municipal governance.
- Meetings are held at the call of the chair.

- One at-large vacancy exists on this 9-member commission.
- Staff liaison Janet Lewis, 763-531-1145

Highlights from 2010: Clarified language regarding referendum and initiative, filing of petitions, amended filing and withdrawal dates for municipal offices and primary elections. Participated in the city's 50th Anniversary celebration.

Northwest Hennepin Human Services Council (NWHHSC)

- Regional human services research, planning and coordination to support residents in 15 cities in northwest Hennepin County.
- Residents from member cities are appointed to identify human services issues, solutions and best practices for resolving issues. Visit www.nwhhsc.org for more information.
- Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- One vacancy exists for Crystal representation.
- Staff liaison Kim Therres, 763-531-1132

Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization (BCWMO)

- Jointly manages the water resources to improve surface water quality within its watersheds.
- Is composed of representatives from the cities of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale.
- Meetings are held monthly on the third Thursday at 11:30 a.m. (lunch provided) at Golden Valley City Hall. Visit www.bassettcreekwmo.org for more information.
- One vacancy exists for an alternate member.
- Staff liaison Tom Mathisen, 763-531-1160

Highlights from 2010: Completed the construction of a water quality treatment pond on a tributary to Medicine Lake, participating in the city's 50th Anniversary celebration, and began the construction of a major erosion control project on Bassett Creek.

Environmental Quality Commission (EQC)

- Studies and advises on the conservation of environmental resources and resolving environmental issues.

Commission Members continued on page 10

