

# LA CRESCENT CITY NEWS

Visit our Website [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov)

Summer 2022



## Election Year 2022

**Primary Election:** August 9, 2022  
**General Election:** November 8, 2022

The following City seats will be up for election :

2 Council seats—term is 4 years  
Mayor—term is 2 years

If you are interested in becoming a candidate you must fill out an Affidavit of Candidacy form between August 2, 2022 and August 16, 2022. Candidates will be on the November 8th General Election ballot. Forms can be completed at City Hall between those dates. The filing fee is \$2.00.

If you would like to know more about becoming a candidate please visit The MN Secretary of State website: [sos.state.mn.us](http://sos.state.mn.us). This site is also a great resource to find out all you need to know about elections from how they work to where you vote.

## Wagon Wheel Bridge

The deck of the bridge is tentatively scheduled to be placed at the end of July during overnight hours. Lane closures will apply.

Information will be placed on the City website: [cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://cityoflacrescent-mn.gov) as well as the City Facebook page in advance of the closure.



## ROAD CONSTRUCTION

The following City roads will be worked on this summer:

**Oak Street** between Main and North 2nd St.

**Birch Street** just off of South 7th St. to Welshire Dr.

**Cedar Street** from South 8th St. to South 11th St. and the portion that abuts Abnet Field.

This will involve some tree removal, followed by removal of curb and gutter sections that are in need of replacement. The existing street surface will be pulverized, and new black top will be installed.

## WALNUT STREET DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The City of La Crescent is performing a demonstration project that includes bump outs at all four quadrants of the intersection of Walnut St. and Main St. The project will run June—October 1. Visit <https://clients.whks.com/la-crescent-mn/> to learn more as well as provide your feedback on the project.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Officer Michael Ernster who was recently promoted to La Crescent Police Sergeant. Sergeant Ernster has 25 total years on the job with 20 of those years at the La Crescent PD.

Luke Ahlschlager became Interim Chief of Police in December of 2021 and on April 8, 2022 the Interim tag was removed and Luke was promoted to La Crescent Police Chief. Chief Ahlschlager has 21 years on the job and is in his 20th year with La Crescent PD.

## GRATITUDE

Thank you to our former Police Chief, Doug Stavenau for your 24 years of service with the La Crescent PD. Chief Stavenau retired in April from law enforcement and continues to work for the city in the Utility/Maintenance Department.



Pictured: Chief Ahlschlager and Sergeant Ernster



Pictured: Former Chief Stavenau



## ADOPT-A-DRAIN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND RECEIVE A FREE LED KIT



Did you know that La Crescent has over 1,000 storm drains? The first 100 residents that sign up for the 'Adopt-A-Drain' program will receive a free LED light bulb kit.

La Crescent is excited to partner with Hamline University and the Adopt-A-Drain program. Would you like to sign up for the Adopt-a-Drain program? Storm drains flow directly to local lakes, rivers, and wetlands, acting as a conduit for trash and organic pollutants. Adopt-a-Drain asks residents to adopt a storm drain in their neighborhood and keep it

clear of leaves, trash, and other debris to reduce water pollution.

By adopting a drain, you're committing to keeping the drain and the area around it clear of leaves, trash, and other debris for the next year—and hopefully longer. There's no specific requirement for how often you need to sweep up. Most people clear their drain about twice a month, but be sure to check the drain before and after it rains, and when the snow begins to melt.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Drain program visit: [mn.adopt-a-drain.org](http://mn.adopt-a-drain.org).



### "Bluff to Bluff" Trolley Tours coming to La Crescent this Fall

The La Crosse County Convention and Visitors Bureau aka Explore La Crosse is offering Trolley Tours to La Crescent on four weekends this fall. Mark your calendars for September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> and tickets will be available through Explore La Crosse at 608.782.2366 or email [info@explorelacrosse.com](mailto:info@explorelacrosse.com). These tours are possible due to the City of La Crescent's membership in Explore La Crosse which promotes tourism in the area.



Commerce to create a co-working space at the Chamber offices. The Co-Working space is called Keep Company and provides office and meeting space for start-up companies and small businesses in the La Crescent area. A grand opening was held on May 4, 2022 with area leaders and Chamber members present to dedicate the space. The space was inspired by the City of La Crescent's former Community Development Director, Terry Erickson. A plaque commemorating Terry and his passion for this project is displayed in the co-working space.

The space is open by appointment (507-895-2800), and is located at the La Crescent Chamber of Commerce and Tourism offices at 111 South Walnut Street, Suite B. For more information contact Allison Wagner, Houston County EDA Director at [EDA@co.houston.mn.us](mailto:EDA@co.houston.mn.us) or (507) 725-5836. The County EDA is looking for Houston County businesses who can provide a variety of business services and technical to small businesses and start-up entrepreneurs. The county is looking for companies that can offer technical support in the areas of advertising, technology, legal, and website design who are willing to offer their services out of the space through a class or other types of training to other businesses.

### Co-working Space Launched at La Crescent Chamber of Commerce

The Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation provided a grant to the Houston County Economic Development Authority (EDA) in a partnership with the La Crescent Chamber of

### Keeping our Storm Sewers Clean: What is an Illicit Discharge?

Anything that goes into the storm sewer system that is not storm water is considered an illicit discharge including but not limited to: paint, grass clippings and leaves, pet waste, motor oils, lawn chemicals, and sidewalk deicers.

### How do I Report an illicit discharge?

**Step 1.** Observe from a safe distance. DO NOT touch or smell the substance.

**Step 2.** Notify the Non-Emergency Police Dispatch at 507-895-4414 (Available 24/7). In case of an emergency, call 911.

**Step 3.** Provide the following information: your name, phone number, discovery/incident time, date, and location, description of material, and source if known, estimated extent of the problem, take photographs of the scene and send them to: [www.lacrescentwwtp@gmail.com](mailto:www.lacrescentwwtp@gmail.com)

### Building Permits

All permits for the City are done online. Visit our website at:

[www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov)

'Administration' tab, 'Building & Zoning' sub-tab. If you are unsure if a permit is required, please call 507-895-2595 and ask for the Zoning Department.

### Keep Trees Trimmed

Please keep trees trimmed back to the edge of the road/back of the curb to a height of 13'-6" to allow emergency vehicles to access your property and your neighbors.

### Lawns

City Code 93.51 limits the height of grass and weeds to 12 inches.

### Prescription Drug Drop-off Box

The Prescription Drug Drop-off box is located in City Hall and may be accessed during regular business hours 7:30 am - 4:00 pm M-F. Meds can remain in their original containers. No need to remove or mark-out the labels. This is a confidential disposal unit. **\*No liquids or needles accepted.\***

### La Crescent Public Library

Monday - Friday (10:00 am - 6:00 pm)

Saturday (10:00 am - 2:00 pm)

For more information visit the La Crescent Library Website at:

[www.lacrescent.lib.mn.us](http://www.lacrescent.lib.mn.us)



### Recycling Cart Collection

A few things to remember:

- Recycling pick up is every other Wednesday
- Please have the carts out by 7 a.m. on the designated collection day
- All recycling must fit inside the cart
- Carts need to sit on a level surface. If your recycling was not picked up please contact **Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling** directly at 608-783-6727

For more information about the **recycling cart and calendar of pick up dates** view our website [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov) 'Refuse & Recycling' tab and then directly under the Refuse & Recycling Pickup tab select the link for the 'Recycling Bin Information' or stop by City Hall for a copy.

### City Compost Site and Recycling Center

The **City Compost Site**, for the deposit of your trees, leaves and grass. (Located on Main St. just beyond Classic Rock) is open:

**Summer** (Starts 1<sup>st</sup> Monday in April)

Monday 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Fall** (1st Thursday in Oct thru last Thursday in Nov)

Mondays 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturdays 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Winter** (starts 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in Dec)

SATURDAYS ONLY 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The **Recycling Center** - operated by Houston County (160 S. 3rd St., Take Chestnut St. to south side of 'City-Door' previously known as the Commodore or Flea Market building. Site is located behind building and across the railroad tracks.) is open Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For questions please call: 507-725-5800



### Energy & Sustainability Survey

La Crescent's Energy Action Team has set a goal to host educational opportunities on sustainability that the community would have an interest in attending. We're excited to hear your ideas and what you'd like to learn more about.

This five-question survey should only take a few minutes. Thanks very much for your help!

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6862077/La-Crescent-Energy-and-Sustainability-Topic-of-interest-Survey-copy>

## **AARP Names La Crescent as one of the Top 10 Most Livable U.S. Small Towns for 2022**

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) has named the City of La Crescent as one of the most livable small towns for 2022. The AARP uses a Livability Index data tool that measures seven categories of livability that include engagement, housing, neighborhood, transportation, environment, opportunity and health. Small towns considered in the ranking range in population from 5,000 to 24,999 this is AARP's first time using the index to recognize America's top performing small towns. La Crescent ranked 6<sup>th</sup> with the same score as Falls Church, VA and Saint Anthony, MN.

### Community Bike Shoppe



The La Crescent Community Bike Shoppe is located at 227 Main St., across from the Post Office. Volunteers work year round repairing and overhauling bikes. Donated bikes are accepted.

**HOURS:**

**Saturday** mornings, 9:00 a.m.—noon May-August behind Corky's and Wieser Law.

**Tuesday and Wednesday** evenings in the shop from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. or call for a time that works for you.

**CONTACT:** Linda Larson, Program Manager (608) 790-2580

### La Crescent Food Shelf



The La Crescent food shelf is open for indoor shopping and is certified as a 'SuperShelf', which carries healthy foods along with a warm and welcoming environment. **Located at 436 South 6th Street.**

**HOURS:**

**Wednesday** 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m

**Thursday** 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**2nd Saturday** monthly 9:00 a.m. to noon.

If you are sick or otherwise unable to come in person for food please call Susan Oddsen, Program Manager: 507-895-1115 or email: [lacrescentfoodshelf@gmail.com](mailto:lacrescentfoodshelf@gmail.com).



### ***Pay your water bill with Online Pay***

The City of La Crescent partners with PSN which is a national payment service that residents can use to pay their water and sewer bill online. Visit our website [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov), menu item 'Pay My Bill.' You can also call 877-885-7968 for assistance.

*Pay now, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay. Please opt out of paper bills to help save money and be GREEN. An email is sent when your bill is ready. If you choose to use this service we recommend setting your payment date no later than the 10th or 12th of the month.*



**The City is currently accepting applications for City Boards/Commissions/Committees.** If you or someone you know are interested, please visit the City Government link on our website. The application is available on any of the Commission/Committee links. Applications can also be picked up at the front desk of City Hall.

#### **Committee Highlight**

The Green Steps Committee meets once a month and focuses on cost savings, energy use reduction, and encourages civic innovation. The La Crescent Green Steps Committee has applied for and received grants for EV charging stations, LED lighting, and solar panels to name a few. If you would be interested in becoming part of this committee, please contact Jason Ludwigson, Sustainability Coordinator: [jludwigson@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](mailto:jludwigson@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov)

**Are you new to La Crescent?** View the 'Welcome to La Crescent' guide located on our website under the 'Residents' link or pick up a copy at City Hall, 315 Main Street.

**Would you be willing to help the City in our continued effort of going "Green?"** Please consider receiving future newsletters as well as weekly updates by signing up to receive email from the City. Visit: [www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov) and scroll to the bottom of the front page.

## **City Council**

The City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays every month in the City Council Chamber. Meetings are open to the public.

#### **Council Members:**

Mayor - Mikel Poellinger

Ryan Hutchinson  
Cherryl Jostad  
Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner  
Dale Williams

Council Agenda's, Meeting minutes, and Meeting packets can be found on the City website:

[www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov](http://www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov) 'City Government' tab.

# **La Crescent Newsletter**

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