

LA CRESCENT CITY NEWS

Visit our Website www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov

Fall/Winter 2022

Wagon Wheel Trail Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Wagon Wheel Trail Bridge ribbon cutting ceremony took place on Monday, September 19th. The event was well attended. Mayor Mike Poellinger presented commemorative plaques to numerous individuals and companies that played a vital role in making the bridge project happen.



Pictured above left to right: Mike Phippen (yellow shirt), Icon Construction, City Council Member Cherryl Jostad, MnDOT District 6 Engineer, Mark Schoenfelder, Senator Jeremy Miller, State Representative Greg Davids, City Council Member Dale Williams, City Council Member Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Chamber of Commerce President, Sarah DeLacy, Mayor Mike Poellinger, Terry Kraeling, Icon Construction

GreenStep Level 4 Designation

On September 12th, 2022 Kristin Mroz, State Director for the GreenStep Cities and Tribal Nations program, presented the GreenStep level 4 designation to the city. Some notable metrics that contributed to the level 4 designation include:

- 89% of city street lights are LED
- 72% of city buildings have LED lighting
- 87% of city operations use renewable energy.

Overall, 143 cities in Minnesota participate in the GreenStep program and La Crescent is one of 34 Minnesota Cities that has met the level 4 designation, the highest designation being level 5.



Pictured front row left to right: Mayor Mike Poellinger, City Sustainability Coordinator, Jason Ludwigson, Kristin Mroz. Back row from left to right: Council member, Cherryl Jostad, Council member, Ryan Hutchinson, Council Member Dale Williams, and Council Member Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner.

Minnesota General Election

The 2022 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.

According to the MN Secretary of State Office, MN led the nation in voter turnout in 2020. Around 80% of eligible voters turned out to vote. Other facts related to MN voting are found throughout this newsletter. For more information on how our election system works in Minnesota, please visit the MN Secretary of State website (sos.state.mn.us).

The Apple Returns

In 2021 a few city residents came up with the idea of painting a temporary red apple at the intersection of Walnut and Main streets for Applefest. It was so well received that it was repainted again in time for this year's Applefest.

Pictured left: Leo Chaput and City Administrative Assistant and former Applefest Board Director, Chris Fortsch paint the red apple.



Minnesota Elections Facts

mnvotes.gov/facts

FACT: Elections are governed by laws and practices that ensure **only eligible voters cast ballots** and that every eligible vote is counted.

mnvotes.gov/facts

FACT: It takes around **30,000 election workers** to hold an election in Minnesota.

mnvotes.gov/facts

La Crescent Wastewater Takes a Three Mile Trip

One of the many questions received at City Hall is how the city sewer system works. City Utility Maintenance Staff explain:

In 2007 La Crescent entered into a sewer agreement with La Crosse (prior to 2007 La Crescent had its own treatment plant but due to needed upgrades it was determined that it was more cost-effective to join into an agreement with La Crosse). Wastewater from La Crescent is pumped to the La Crosse sanitary sewer plant on Isle la Plume to get treated. A 10 inch High Density Polyethylene force main was installed along Hwy. 14/61 "The Pike", which goes under the Mississippi River at two spots, the west channel and the main channel. The force main has an average of 300,000 gallons of sewage going through it per day and is pushed by three 25 horsepower pumps. The force main also has three air release valves and two stations to clean the line.

The changing of regulations and updating of equipment dictates the cost of treating the wastewater. The City of La Crosse bears the bill for updating the wastewater plant. The City of La Crescent pays for the wastewater that is being sent to La Crosse through fixed rates on the residential and commercial quarterly utility bills.

How to Read Your Utility Bill

What, when, and how residents are charged for utilities are common questions.

The City is broken down into three sections and each section is billed quarterly. The following table breaks down the three sections:



If your Account Number begins with a:	Bill is sent out at the beginning of:	Date bills are due before a penalty is applied:
1	March, June, September, and December	The 3rd Wednesday of the month you receive the bill
2 or 4	January, April, July, and October	The 3rd Wednesday of the month you receive the bill
3	February, May, August, and November	The 3rd Wednesday of the month you receive the bill

Quarterly Fixed Charges:

WF = Water Fixed Charge (meter charge) \$3.00 or \$10.50 based on size of meter

SM = Sewer Minimum Charge (currently) \$70.37

RC = Refuse Charge (Houston County Landfill, charged by the County) \$12.00

RF = Recycling Fee (Residential recycling bins) \$10.20

SF = State User Fee (Charged 1 time per year for State Water Testing) \$9.72

Any dollar amount above these fixed charges is for the amount of gallons of water your household or business uses during the quarter. An additional sewer fee may apply if your water usage for the quarter is over 30,000 gallons.

Garbage bags or Garbage Totes

Residents are not charged for regular garbage pick up on the utility bill. The only charge on a utility bill is for the recycling totes (the ones with yellow lids). The City is contracted with Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling for recycling pick up. Residents can choose what garbage collection company (that picks up in La Crescent) they want for their garbage pick-up. If you choose to use the City garbage bags (the clear bags with red lettering, currently 10 bags for \$28.00) then those are picked up by Hilltopper Refuse and Recycling. Some residents choose to rent totes from a garbage collection company. Residents need to contact those companies to find out the rental rates.

Building Permits

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

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, Wednesday, and Friday
(10:00 am - 6:00 pm)

Tuesday and Thursday
(10:00 am - 6:00 pm)

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

For more information visit the La Crescent Library Website at: www.lacscent.lib.mn.us



Pay your water bill with Online Pay

The City of La Crescent partners with PSN which is a national payment that residents can use to pay their water and sewer bill online. Visit our website: www.cityoflacscent-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.

Snow Removal

Snow must be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after a snow fall. (City Ordinance No. 148)



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 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

For more information on Storm Water Pollution and what you can do to prevent it, please visit our website:
www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov and select the 'Administration' menu title and then from the drop-down menu select 'Storm Water & Erosion Control'



City Compost Site and Recycling Center

The City Compost Site (Located on Main St. just beyond Classic Rock) is open **Mondays** from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm and **Saturdays** from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm for the deposit of your trees, leaves and grass. **Additional hours on Thursdays (Oct.-Nov)** from 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm.

The Recycling Center - operated by Houston County, located at 160 S. 3rd Street (Take Chestnut St. to south side of the 'City-Door' building. The site is behind the building and across the railroad tracks). Hours are **Thursdays** from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and **Saturdays** 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. For questions please call: 507-725-5800.

City Hall Staffing Changes

Finance Director Retires



After 27 years of working for the City of La Crescent as the Finance Director, Debbie Shimshak is set to retire. Debbie has seen a lot of changes to City Hall in those 27 years from technology upgrades, moving her office location

several times, and of course staff changes. Through it all, Debbie has maintained a positive attitude and no matter how tough the challenge, she always has a smile on her face. We, the City staff, appreciate all of Debbie's hard work, determination, and positive work ethic. We wish Debbie the best in her retirement and that she enjoys the well-deserved time she will have with her family, especially her two grandchildren Aubrey and Cooper.

City Accountant to Take on a New Role

As Debbie Shimshak prepares to retire, Kara Tarrence, currently the City Accountant, is readying herself to fill the position of City Finance Director. Kara began working for the City in 2015 as the City Bookkeeper and in 2019 she was promoted to the City Accountant. Kara has worked in the accounting field since 2007 both in Iowa and for Winona County.



New City Bookkeeper

In February of this year Danae Forman (not pictured) was hired as the City Bookkeeper. Danae's job duties include Utility Billing and Accounts Payable, as well as other accounting duties. We are happy to have Danae as part of the City staff.

Houston-Hokah-La Crescent-Houston County Root River Trail Extension

The City of La Crescent along with the Cities of Hokah and Houston and Houston County have all signed on to a Memorandum of Agreement to cooperatively work together to create a trail connection to the Root River Trail. Other successful trail projects have proceeded through such agreements. The City of La Crescent staff will be the lead coordinators of the trail planning efforts along with Houston County staff. An eight-member citizen committee representing the three cities and county will work toward developing a plan and strategy to

complete the trail. The city's two appointed

citizens are Larry Stryker and Dick Wieser. All meetings of the citizen committee will be publicly noticed and open to the public and will rotate from community to community. The group will begin meeting this fall and develop a more detailed action plan to move the project forward. While there is no guarantee of success, the communities and county are anxious to be working together for the betterment of the County.

FACT: The election results are not official until they are reviewed by a canvassing board.

mnvotes.gov/facts

Minnesota Election Facts

FACT: Minnesota's Voter Registration Database is continuously updated through a rigorous maintenance and data-matching process.

mnvotes.gov/facts

Minnesota Election Facts

FACT: Ballot-counting machines are tested, verified for accuracy, and certified before every election.

mnvotes.gov/facts

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

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee is a group of community members who are interested in the health and safety of those who use our streets, sidewalks and trails to walk and bike. They advocate, support and promote these plans in a variety of ways:

- The City's Comprehensive Plan (2016)
- The Bluffland Plan (2017)
- The La Crescent Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (2013) and updated plan (2017)
- The Safe Routes to School Plan (2020)

Are you new to La Crescent? View the 'Welcome to La Crescent' guide on our website 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 and scroll to the bottom of the front page to sign up.

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
Cherry 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
'City Government' tab.

La Crescent
Newsletter

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