Recent Happenings

Arbor Day Tree Planting

This marks the second year in a row that the City has been designated a Tree City USA. On Friday April 26th, Lion’s Club members, community members, and City Maintenance staff planted thirty trees in Veterans Park as the first phase of a two part tree planting project planned for the park. Sixty more trees are expected to be planted by the end of summer.

To qualify as a Tree City the following is required:

- The creation of a Tree Board (Park & Recreation Commission)
- Create and adopt a Tree Care Ordinance (Ord. #490)
- A Community Forestry program with an annual budget of at least $2.00 per capita (2018 = $5.11/per capita)
- An Arbor Day proclamation and observance (pictured)

Bird Banding

The first annual City of La Crescent World Migratory Bird Day was held at Vetsch Park on May 18, 2019. This event was a result of the City’s desire to be designated a Minnesota Bird City, a program coordinated by the Minnesota Audubon Society and of which hosting an annual World Migratory Bird Day is part of that designation. This World Migratory Bird day is celebrated not just in the United States but in Canada, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Participants of this event were able to see how wild birds found in Vetsch Park were safely netted, banded and recorded for monitoring purposes by members of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Educational Bird Banding Group and then released back to their natural habitat in our area.

Birds banded during the event were:


Next year’s Migratory Bird Day will be held the first part of May 2020 and information will be available about the event in April.

Right: Kathy Caryle banding a male cardinal
Middle: Children enjoying the opportunity to learn About and see an Indigo Bunting up close
Far Right: Warbler ready to be released
Managing Storm Water

Why is storm water run-off a problem?

Storm water run-off can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants during a rainfall or snowmelt event. The run-off can flow into the storm sewers and eventually into the river and backwaters. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is ultimately discharged into nearby surface waters.

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, sidewalk deicers, and runoff from washing a car at home.

How do I Report and 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 (Days, Evenings, or Weekends). 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, estimate extent of the problem, take photographs of the scene and send them to 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 past Classic Rock) is open Mondays from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. for the deposit of your trees, leaves and grass.

The Recycling Center (Located behind the Flea Market Building) is open Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m.

La Crescent GreenStep

Minnesota GreenStep Cities is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals.

In 2015 the City created a GreenStep team. The team works together with the goal of making La Crescent more environmentally friendly and educating residents on things they can do to help.

For more information visit the GreenStep tab on the City webpage:
www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov
News from the La Crescent Police Department

City Animal Regulations

All dogs and cats within the City are required to be licensed at 4 months of age or older. Licenses are renewed on a yearly basis and must be purchased at the Front Office of City Hall by January 15th to avoid a $10.00 penalty.

- Spayed/Neutered - $7.50 per pet
- Non-spayed/Neutered - $10.00 per pet
- Multiple Pet fee (3 or more of one species) - $25.00

PROOF OF RABIES MUST BE GIVEN AT TIME OF LICENSING

Dogs and Cats in the City must be leashed if outside.

La Crescent Motor Vehicle Department

Located in City Hall, 315 Main St. (507) 895-4627. REAL ID compliant cards are now available. Visit dvs.dps.mn.gov for more information on what you need to get your card. Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon. - Fri. **On rare occasions due to staffing the department may be closed from 1:00 - 2:00 to accommodate for a staff lunch break.**

Tornado Siren Testing

The tornado sirens which are located at:

- Veterans Park (owned by the City)
- La Crescent Community Arena (owned by the City)
- Intersection of Main and South Chestnut (owned by Houston County Emergency Management and maintained by the City of La Crescent)
- Townhall Road at CTH 6 (owned by Houston County Emergency Management with no City involvement)

are tested the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. starting in the spring and continues throughout the summer.

Prescription Drug Drop-off Box

Please do your part in keeping La Crescent safe by bringing unused medicines for environmentally friendly disposal.

We have collected a total of 520.5 lbs since June 2017 of controlled substances in the drug drop-box. This is 520.5 lbs of controlled substances that were removed from potential abuse and were properly disposed of to avoid environmental concerns with being put in the landfill or in the waste water treatment system.

We thank all of our residents for doing their part.

The box may be accessed during regular business hours 8:00am - 5:00pm Mon. - Fri. 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.*
Important Information

Water and Sewer Bills

Why does the City bill quarterly?

For water and sewer billing purposes the city is divided into three sections. This allows one section of the city’s meters to be read each month.

When are the water/sewer bills due?

After receiving the bill, they are due the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

How do I pay my bill?

Currently cash and check are the only payment methods available however, the City is hoping to accept credit cards soon (stay tuned).

Payments can be made:

- directly at the City Hall Front Office Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- be put in the drop-box outside the front door of City Hall (anytime)
- by using the Payment Service Network.

***A charge of 5% will be added to bills not paid by the Due Date.***

More water/sewer information can be found on the City’s website www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov ‘Water/Sewer’ tab

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 view our website www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov ‘Refuse & Recycling’ tab and then directly under the Refuse & Recycling Pickup tab select the link for the “New Recycling Bin Information - 2019”

City Hall Holiday Closures (Spring/Summer)

Monday, May 27th
Thursday, July 4th
Monday, September 2nd

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, 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.

Street Reconstruction

The following 2019 street projects are a continuation from 2018:

Skunk Hollow Rd - reclaim and repave road and addition of sidewalk on east side of road.

North 4th Street - reclaim and repave from N. Elm St. to just beyond the turn to Crescent Hills Drive.

South 3rd Street – final lift of blacktop and complete landscaping along sidewalks.

COUNTY ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Houston County will be milling and doing a 2 1/2 inch overlay on Elm Street from S. 3rd to N. 4th beginning in June.
“Wellness encompasses a healthy body, a sound mind and a tranquil spirit. Enjoy the journey as you strive for wellness.”
Laurette Gagnon Beaulieu

La Crescent Community Bike Shoppe

The La Crescent Community Bike Shoppe recently moved from its location by the ice arena. It is temporarily located in the ACENTEK building which can be accessed via the parking lot behind Corky’s restaurant off of Walnut St.

Shop hours are Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - noon. June 1 - August 31

Drop off for bike donations, bike repairs, and bikes for sale.

Park Shelter Rental

The City offers park shelter rental at Old Hickory Park. $45.00 per side. For more information call 507-895-2595

La Crescent Aquatic Center

The La Crescent Aquatic Center will open at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday May 25th and will close for the season on Saturday, August 24th, at 5:00 p.m.

Typical open swim times are 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. daily. However, times are adjusted weekdays May 28 - June 5th due to staffing. Please refer to the cities website www.cityoflacrescent-mn.gov menu item ‘Parks & Recreation, subtab ‘Aquatic Center’ for those adjusted hours.

Pine Creek Golf Course

The City owned Pine Creek Golf Course is located at 3815 N. Pine Creek Rd. To book a tee-time please call 507-895-2410. The clubhouse also offers a full-service restaurant.

Hiking Trails-Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak Access

The City is excited to announce the extension of the Wagon Wheel Trail (top left) and the extension of the Eagles Bluff Park Access Trail which provides a connection from Veterans Park to Eagles Bluff Park and Old Hickory Park. (left)

The Blue Lake Canoe/Kayak Access is also new to the City and is located off of the Pike on Strupp Avenue. (above)
Upcoming Events

Friends of the Library book sale 9:00 - noon every 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month. Located behind City hall, 315 Main Street.

Farmers Market (Crucifixion Parking lot, S. 2nd and Oak St.)
   Tuesdays 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Block Party on Main (Main St. between Oak and Walnut)
   Saturday June 22nd 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Final Slice of Life walk/run (La Crescent Community Arena, 520 S. 14th)
   Saturday June 29th 7:00 a.m.
   Same day registration

City-Wide rummage sale  Friday August 30th and Saturday, August 31st

La Crescent Applefest  September 19th - 22nd

Would you be willing to help the City in our continued effort of going “Green?” Please consider receiving the Fall/Winter issue of the Newsletter via email. Simply send your email address to aboettcher@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov.

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
Cherryl Jostad
Brian Krenz
Teresa O’Donnell-Ebner
Dale Williams

Council Agenda and Council meeting minutes can be found on the City website:

La Crescent City Hall
315 Main Street
La Crescent, MN  55947