

# THE CITY OF CROOKSTON

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# FALL 2025

# THE CITY OF CROOKSTON

## Crookston City Hall:

124 N Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716  
Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm  
Phone: (218) 281-1232  
www.Crookston.mn.us

## Elected Officials:

### Mayor

Dale Stainbrook: (218) 275-3684

### City Council:

- Joseph Shostell: 1st Ward / (218) 280-2977
- Henry Fischer: 2nd Ward / (218) 280-4093
- Clayton Briggs: 3rd Ward / (218) 289-4408
- Donald Cavalier: 4th Ward / (218) 289-1776
- Derek Brekken: 5th Ward / (218) 289-1805
- Dylane Klatt: 6th Ward / (701) 740-7009
- Morgan Hibma: At Large / (763) 913-1036
- Wendy Ault: At Large / (701) 610-1039

Check out [www.crookston.mn.us](http://www.crookston.mn.us) for update on vacant positions

### Important Phone Numbers

Interim City Administrator:  
Darin Selzler: (218) 281-1232  
Building Inspections Department: (218) 281-5713  
City Clerk's Office: (218) 281-4503  
Charter Commission: (218) 281-1232  
Crookston Municipal Airport: (218) 281-2625  
Fire Department: (218) 281-4584  
Finance Department: (218) 281-4503  
Parks & Recreation: (218) 281-1242  
Police Department: (218) 281-3111  
Polk County Museum: (218) 281-2950  
Public Works: (218) 281-1232  
Water Department: (218) 281-5711



## City Board & Commissions Meetings:

Monthly meetings unless noted.  
Dates and times are subject to change.

### City Council:

- 1st & 3rd Monday of each month
- 5:30pm – Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

### Ways & Means Committee Meeting:

- 1st & 3rd Monday of each month
- Following City Council meetings unless stated otherwise – Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

### Park Board:

- 2nd Monday of each month
- 4:45pm – Crookston City Hall Meeting Room

### Planning Commission Meeting:

- 3rd Tuesday of each month
- 7:00pm - Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

### Economic Development Association Meeting:

- Last Tuesday of each month
- 7:00am – Valley Technology Park

### Charter Commission:

- Annually – Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

## City Council Meeting Viewing:

All City Council meetings are available for viewing on Channel 3 as well as livestreamed on the City of Crookston YouTube page. The City of Crookston YouTube page will also post the full recording of all City Council Meetings. All meetings are open to the public.

## City Hall Closed:

Labor Day – September 1st  
Veterans Day – November 11th  
Thanksgiving – November 27th & 28th  
Christmas Day – December 25th  
New Years Day – January 1st

*Welcome Back Students*



# Crookston City Council Highlights

June 2025

## Special Meeting – June 2nd, 2025

City Council met for a special meeting on Monday evening to appoint Joseph Shostell to fill the vacant At-Large Council Member seat. The vacancy, declared on May 5, 2025, came following the written resignation of Tim Menard. When it was time to approve Shostell as the At-Large Council Member, the motion failed with a 3-2 vote. Council Members Fischer, Briggs, and Brekken voted yes, while Klatt and Cavalier voted no. Council Member Hibma was absent, and Council Member Jerde showed up late and missed getting a chance to vote. This unexpected turn of events will put off having a full council for a bit longer.

## Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grant and Committing Matching Funds

In this resolution, it is stated that Crookston has been identified as a Workforce Housing Community and a Top Job Center within the Northwest Region by Minnesota Housing. The Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grant requires a 50% local match to secure the financing. The council was asked to affirm that it has the financial ability to provide and hereby approve up to \$500,000 in matching funds as required by the grant program.

The EDA is putting together a plan for a couple of cul-de-sacs with some single-family and some twin homes. What this grant allows the city to do is offset some of the cost of installing the infrastructure, the roads, the water, the sewer, to get them ready for building so that the city can move forward. Grants like this really help to take some of the pressure off the city budget. If the Crookston EDA cannot find a satisfactory combination of means to offset the matching funds, they will not submit the application. The council unanimously approved the application.

## Crookston Community Pool Donation and Repairs

During a June Crookston Forum, Carol Gregg of Fin & Fit addressed the council with a donation to cover all needed repairs at the pool. The donation was in the amount of \$10,500. City council once again had to decide whether or not to continue working with the community to keep the pool open. At a prior meeting, a resolution to fix the pool with donated funds failed.

A few new items were added to the list of things needing to be fixed to make the pool operational. The new issue was that a flange connection cracked due to some piping not being secured by brackets. The cost of the new flange and pipe hangars is \$3,785. That added to the prior repair needs total just over \$10,100. The council took into consideration that there are more people and businesses willing to help. Although the

vote was unanimous to accept the donation and make repairs to open the pool, both Council Members Klatt and Fischer expressed that they do not intend to approve any city-funded pool repairs in the future. The Crookston Pool reopened in June 2025 with extended hours and scheduled swimming lessons.

## Position Classification and Compensation Study

Michael Mooney, HR Manager from ABDO, gave the Council some information on the work ABDO is performing for the City of Crookston in a Position Classification and Compensation Study. They are currently working through job descriptions for the City, and also briefly explained the Position Scoring Methodology used in figuring position compensation. The City will hear from ABDO again in a couple of months after review of comparable cities in the area, which will assist them in their study.

## MnDOT Briefing on Trunk Highway 2 Downtown Sidewalk Replacement Project

Matt Upgren of the Minnesota Department of Transportation presented information on the Trunk Highway 2 Downtown Sidewalk Replacement. In the fall of 2021, MnDOT and the City of Crookston entered into a joint powers agreement together, whereby a qualified consultant would complete the analysis and evaluation of the project corridor. That corridor study was paid for approximately two-thirds by MnDOT, one-third by Crookston, which corresponded to the ownership of those corridor segments.

A community review panel was formed with various representatives from different groups and roadway users throughout the community. Based on feedback from that panel, the top priority revolved around pedestrian safety and vehicle speed reduction. The final preferred alternative vision for the corridor keeps the one-way traffic, reduces the cross-section down from three through lanes to two lanes, keeps parking, and reconstructs all sidewalks to be ADA compliant. There are also some traffic calming measures, some bump-outs, and bike lanes.

As part of the corridor study, the two signals on 2nd Street, both at Broadway and Main, were flagged at the time for insufficient vehicle volumes so they do not warrant re-installation. MnDOT did not initially complete an Intersection Control Evaluation so one has recently been completed by MnDOT with the help of SRF Consulting out of Fargo. They looked at all the signals along highway 2 in the project footprint area. What the traffic office has found is confirmation that the 2nd Street signals are not meeting the warranted threshold for re-installation. Furthermore, the signal at Ash Street also



# Crookston City Council Highlights - continued from page 4

July 2025

## Discussion regarding the At-Large vacancy in the City Council

The Council discussed their options, including leaving the position vacant until the next term, holding a Special Election, which would cost the City of Crookston an estimated \$15,000-20,000, creating an Advisory Board with the current candidates (Joseph Shostell, Wendy Ault, and Gina Corneillie) creating an Advisory Board and opening the candidate pool, or voting to appoint. The council decided to go the route of forming an Advisory Board and opening up the candidate pool. City staff will assemble a group of nine residents from a pool of interested parties to make up the Advisory Board.

## Parks & Recreation Director Jake Solberg's Resignation

It was announced that Parks and Rec Director Jake Solberg had submitted his resignation, and he is going to be moving on, and we wish him well. He has done a lot of good things for the City. He's really helped the City move forward in the three years that he has been here, and we really wish him well in his future endeavors.



## Establishing an Advisory Board to Recommend an Appointment for the Vacant At-Large City Council Seat

The Advisory Board was created by City Hall staff and is entirely separate from the City Council. Applications for the At-Large seat were open from Tuesday, July 22, to Thursday, July 31. After that date, the Advisory Board conducted interviews and then made a recommendation to the Council. The Advisory Board was established with the following interested residents: Bishop Jensen, Nikk Caputo, Caroline Colborn, Gary Willhite, Katie Salvhus, Jacob Fee, Nancy Shafer, Charles Reynolds, and John Robertson. The Council unanimously approved the establishment of the Advisory Board.



## Scott Butt Promoted to Parks & Recreation Director

The previous Director, Jake Solberg, resigned his position, and his last day with the City was July 11. Per the City of Crookston Employee Procedures and Policies Manual, the City promotes from within where practical, and Jeff Shoobridge recommended Butt for the position. It was apparent that this met the approval of the Park & Rec crew as well, as most of, if not all of them, were in attendance

in their neon work shirts along with Jake Solberg.

Butt has been with the City of Crookston for 15 years and has a vast background in Recreation, and he looks forward to doing some amazing things with the City. The Council approved of Butt moving into the Parks & Rec Director position unanimously.

## Council Member Kristie Jerde Resigns

Council Member Kristie Jerde announced that this was her last meeting as she is resigning from her seat because she is moving out of Ward 1. Being only one ward, the City is anticipating a very manageable number of applicants for that ward. It will be declared as a vacancy at the first August meeting, and at that point, the City will open that up for an opportunity for people to apply, and then the Council will conduct interviews.



August 2025

## Wendy Ault appointed to City Council Ward 1

Wendy Ault was selected to fill the vacant Ward 1 City Council seat after deliberation from an advisory committee.

## Wildflower Garden Caregivers Appreciation Day

Crookston Mayor Dale Stainbrook made a proclamation declaring August 21, 2025, Wildflower Garden Caregivers Appreciation Day. The proclamation honors those who continue to upkeep Crookston's Wildflower Garden, located at South Main Street and Highway 75.

## Solar on Public Buildings Program

The Council heard a presentation from Peter Lindstrom and Anna Peterson of CERTS about the Solar on Public Buildings Program. The State of Minnesota legislature established the program to stimulate the installation of solar energy systems on or adjacent to public buildings.

The State has \$14.5 million available for grants. The grant pays 70 percent of the project, and then there also is a direct pay credit that pays another 30 percent, so 100 percent of the project. CERTS is looking at the Crookston Sports Center, Valley Technology Park, building, and possibly the Fire Hall. They are in the process of getting sight assessments done and then applying for the grants.



## Capital Improvement Plan

The Council took in a presentation from AE2S's Travis McStaw and Mike Bibow regarding the Capital Improvement Plan options. Crookston, like most cities across the nation, has much of our infrastructure well beyond its useful life, therefore, AE2S created a plan and a map for the City to use in the future. City Administrator Jeff Shoobridge Gives Resignation

Crookston City Administrator, Jeff Shoobridge, told the City Council he was resigning to take a job with the City of Tifton, Georgia, as City Manager. Shoobridge's last day will be Friday, September 5. Shoobridge stated family near the area as a big deciding factor in the difficult decision.



# Crookston Police Department

## Community Outreach Upcoming Events:

### Night to Unite (August 5th)

- o Night to Unite was a huge success again this year
- o Even with a few rain showers, it was estimated that approximately 2000 people were in attendance
- o Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of Night to Unite. It's only made possible by the generous community support from local businesses and service groups.

### 38th Annual Halloween Food Drive Through (October 31st)

- o This year's 38th Annual Halloween Food Drive is right around the corner
- o Each year this event is co-sponsored by the Crookston Police Department and the Crookston High School Leo Club
- o It takes place on Halloween Night each year and will take place on Friday October 31st from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Crookston High School in the west parking lot
- o We give away over 100lbs of candy or approximately 200 bags of candy and typically raise approximately 1000lbs of food for the Care and Share food shelf
- o Please mark your calendars and plan on attending



## Safety Awareness and Prevention

### Halloween Safety

Halloween is an exciting time for adults and kids, please consider these safety tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday for everyone:

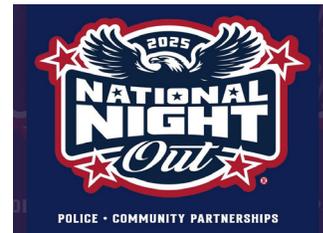
- A responsible adult should accompany young children
- Travel in pairs or larger groups and only travel in familiar, well-lit areas
- Never enter a stranger's home or car
- Wear bright, reflective costumes and carry a flashlight
- Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure your vision
- Don't eat candy until it has been inspected at home and throw away anything that looks suspicious

- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys from the Halloween bags

### Safety Tips for Motorists

- Eliminate distractions so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- Watch for children in dark clothing
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween

We invite the residents to contact the Crookston Police Department at 218-281-3111 with any comments or concerns they may have. Like us on Facebook!





## Crookston Fire Department

**Fire Prevention Week 2025 will take place from October 5 to October 11, marking the 100th anniversary of National Fire Prevention Week.**

The National Fire Protection Association® (NFPA®) – the official sponsor of Fire Prevention Week for more than 100 years – has announced “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” as the theme for Fire Prevention Week™, October 5-11, 2025. This year’s focus on lithium-ion batteries works to better educate the public about how to buy, charge, and dispose of them safely.

Most of the electronics in our homes — smartphones, tablets, power and lawn tools, laptops, e-cigarettes, headphones, and toys, to name just a few — are powered by lithium-ion batteries. If not used correctly or damaged, they can overheat and start a fire or explode. “Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” provides the information, guidance, and resources needed to use lithium-ion batteries with caution and care.

“Lithium-ion batteries are powerful, convenient, and they’re just about everywhere,” said Lorraine Carli, vice president of Outreach and Advocacy at NFPA. “Making sure the public knows how to handle them safely is critical to minimizing the potential risks they present.”

The three key messages that support “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home” include:

### BUY only listed products

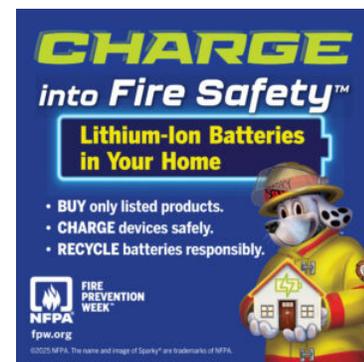
- When buying a product that uses a lithium-ion battery, take time to research it. Look for a stamp from a nationally recognized testing lab on the packaging and product, which means that it meets established safety standards.
- Many products sold online and in stores may not meet safety standards and could increase the risk of fire.

### CHARGE devices safely

- Always use the cables that come with the product to charge it. Also, charge the device in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
- If you need a new charger, buy one from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved.
- Charge your device on a hard surface. Don’t charge it under a pillow, on a bed, or on a couch. This could cause a fire.
- Don’t overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it’s fully charged.

### DISPOSE OF/RECYCLE batteries responsibly

- Don’t throw lithium-ion batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could catch fire.
- Recycling your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location is the best way to dispose of them. Visit [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.
- To learn more about Fire Prevention Week and this year’s theme, “Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home,” visit [fpw.org](http://fpw.org). Additional Fire Prevention Week resources for children, caregivers, and educators can be found at [sparky.org](http://sparky.org) and [sparkyschoolhouse.org](http://sparkyschoolhouse.org).



# Swim Lessons

Crookston Community Pool will offer group swim lessons throughout the season. Swim lessons run Monday-Thursday.

Placement will be decided on the first day!

Spots are limited! For ages 3 & older.

(Child must be potty-trained.)

Cost: \$80

## **September 8th-18th**

- Session 8a: 4:30-5pm
- Session 8b: 5-5:30pm
- Session 8c: 5:30-6pm

## **October 6th-16th**

- Session 9a: 4:30-5pm
- Session 9b: 5-5:30pm
- Session 9c: 5:30-6pm

## **November 3rd-13th**

- Session 10a: 4:30-5pm
- Session 10b: 5-5:30pm
- Session 10c: 5:30-6pm

## **Wellness Swimming**

Wellness swimming-a noncompetitive swim team. It will be offered monthly on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays for ages 7-18 who can swim 1 length of the pool. Structured swim instruction to enhance and gain skills. There will be occasional game day or in-house meet to bring more fun!

**Time:** Mon, Wed, & Thur from 3:30-4:30pm

(Starts September 3rd)

**Cost:** \$90/month

Register online: [www.crookston.mn.us/261/Activity-Registration](http://www.crookston.mn.us/261/Activity-Registration)

Questions? Call Andrea at 218-281-1242

*We accept cash, credit, or check!*



# Crookston Community Fall/Winter Pool Hours (Sept 2-May 31)

## MONDAY-FRIDAY

6-9am: Lap Swim  
9-10am: Aqua Aerobics  
6-8pm Open Swim

## SATURDAY

1-4pm: Open Swim  
5:30-8pm: Family Swim

## SUNDAY

5:30-8pm Family Swim

## HOMESCHOOL SWIM

1:30-3:30pm Open Swim  
2nd Friday of each month

## Birthday Party Rentals

Private rentals are available upon request.  
Call Crookston Parks & Recreation at 218-281-1242  
\$65/hour for 20 & under swimmers  
\$80/hour for 21 & over swimmers  
Tables included!

## Resident Cost

### **Individual Admission**

Ages 4 & Under: \$2  
Ages 5-18: \$5  
Ages 19 & Older \$6

### **Family Swim Admission**

Family of 5: \$20-additional  
family members \$2

### **One person Membership**

Month: \$40  
3 Months: \$110  
6 Months: \$200  
Year: \$360

### **Family up to 5 Membership**

Month: \$75  
3 Month: \$200  
6 Month: \$360  
Year: \$650

## Non-Resident Cost

### **Individual Admission**

Ages 4 & Under: \$4  
Ages 5-18: \$7  
Ages 19 & Older \$8

### **Family Swim Admission**

Family of 5: \$25-additional  
family members \$2

### **One person Membership**

Month: \$45  
3 Months: \$120  
6 Months: \$220  
Year: \$400

### **Family up to 5 Membership**

Month: \$80  
3 Month: \$220  
6 Month: \$400  
Year: \$720



## Crookston Housing & Economic Development Authority Exciting Developments in Crookston!

### Childcare: Building a Brighter Future for Families

In March, a powerhouse Core Team, including childcare and early education professionals, community leaders, City Council members, and EDA board members, launched nine months of focused work to create a strategic plan for increasing childcare capacity in Crookston. The group continues to meet, having identified goals to increase childcare capacity.

This plan isn't just about solving today's challenges but building a stronger future for our community! We are so grateful for the incredible work of all our dedicated partners who make Crookston a great place to raise a family. We're committed to supporting their efforts in any way we can!

### Active Transportation Plan: A Healthier, More Connected Crookston

Over the Summer, the MnDOT consultant team and Crookston community members worked hard to gather community feedback and conduct walk and bike audits, informing the new Active Transportation plan. This plan will serve as a guide for improving walkability, accessibility, and safety. This plan will also be a valuable tool for securing future grants to make these improvements happen.

Thank you to everyone who attended our in-person events and has already provided feedback online.

The team will continue meeting through November, and we'd love your input. Contact Taylor Wyum, Project Coordinator, at [twyum@crookston.mn.us](mailto:twyum@crookston.mn.us) or 218-280-6368 to get involved.



### Join the Conversation at Jolt & Jive

Want to be in the know about all things Crookston? Join us every Thursday from 8 to 9 AM at The Cove Youth Center for Jolt & Jive! Bring your coffee and share your thoughts on Crookston's assets, upcoming events, and what YOU want to see in our city's future. This is a fantastic way to connect, brainstorm, and participate in exciting changes in our community..



## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CROOKSTON

### Welcome Back UMC Students, Faculty, and Staff

Welcome back, Golden Eagles! We're excited to see the University of Minnesota Crookston campus buzzing with students, faculty, and staff again. Here's to a new academic year filled with learning, growth, and golden opportunities.



### Empower Crookston

#### HOMES Energy Rebate Program

This program, from the Minnesota Department of Commerce, has not yet launched, but it is worth noting. Minnesota received \$74,000,000 from the US Department of Energy to implement rebates for replacing inefficient appliances with more efficient electric appliances, and to upgrade a home's electrical panel to be ready for increased electric demand. The rebate amount will vary based on a household's income. Eligibility and rebate amounts for federal Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates will vary based on an applicant's total household income. Check if your total household income is at or below 80% or 150% of Area Median Income (AMI) for your county using the Commerce-provided 2025 Area Median Income Look-Up Table that references federal income limits by county and household size. Area median income thresholds are updated annually. The HEAR rebates can range from \$7,000 to \$14,000 or more per home.

Improvements to existing single-family homes and multifamily buildings will be eligible. New homes may be eligible. Federal guidelines do not allow for retroactive rebates for items purchased before program launch.

For more information and to stay up to date on the program visit: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/consumer/energy-programs/hear.jsp>

**DISCLAIMER:** Be wary of unsolicited contact about this program via phone, email, text, ads, or door-to-door sales. These offers are likely scams. Wait for official announcements from the Minnesota Department of Commerce before considering offers or applying. The UofM Extension office has a Clean Energy Regional Director for the NW that can help field any questions. Contact Anna Peterson at (218) 281-8697 or [annap@umn.edu](mailto:annap@umn.edu).

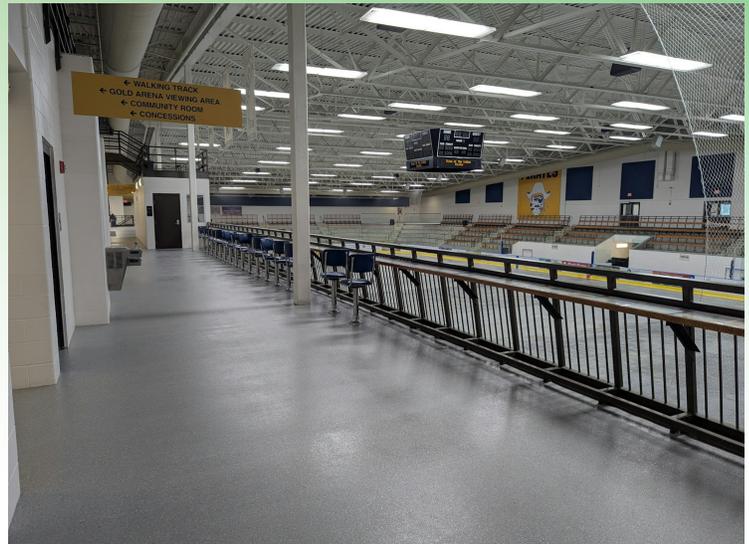


## Parks & Recreation

### Fall/Winter Fun Finder

The Crookston Fall/Winter FunFinder is now available on the City of Crookston website. Be sure to check it out and find activities for kids ages 3 and over and adult leagues. Activities include...

- Girls Volleyball
- Hockey & Figure Skating
- Wrestling
- CYBA Basketball
- Adult Activities + More!



# Crookston Parks & Recreation FunFinder

**Fall/Winter  
2025-26 Season**

### Crookston Sports Center New Turf / Walking Memberships

The Crookston Sports Center is back open to walking memberships with brand new multi purpose flooring in the concourse area!

Walking Track Memberships

- \$30/yr (64 and younger)
- \$25/yr (65 and older)

**Dreams on Ice Figure Skating Show** – March 7th & 8th – Crookston Sports Center

2025 KING OF TRAILS CROOKSTON CITY WIDE

# GARAGE

*Sale*



**SATURDAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 6TH**



**REGISTER BY**  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD**

**JOIN US**



**LISTINGS AND MAPS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE AND AT  
LOCAL GAS STATIONS BY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH**

**+218-281-1232 /  City of Crookston / [www.crookston.mn.us](http://www.crookston.mn.us)**

# Crookston Housing & Economic Development Authority

## Exciting Developments in Crookston!



### Renew Highway 2 Tour – October 23rd

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 9 to 3:30 at UMC for the Renew Highway 2 Conference sponsored by Empower Crookston, the University of Minnesota Crookston, Fresh Energy, Clean Energy Economy Minnesota, and the Northwest Regional Sustainable Development Program. The main purposes are to promote the community and economic development benefits of renewable energy along with uniting communities along the Highway 2 corridor to support each other's success.

There will be similar conferences in Bemidji. Attendance is free. Lunch will be provided. Registration will begin in August along with specific details, so stay tuned to the City of Crookston web site and mark that day down. If you would like any more information between now and then, please call Crookston EDA Project Coordinator Taylor Wyum at 218-280-6368. Be sure to follow Empower Crookston on Facebook for updates on these and more projects as they develop.

Link to register - <https://fresh-energy.org/event/renew-highway-2-tour-crookston#form>  
Event Webpage - <https://fresh-energy.org/event/renew-highway-2-tour-crookston>



### Solar for Schools

Minnesota is home to over 2,000 public school buildings that not only serve as important educational institutions but possess exciting potential for the future of a clean energy transition in our state. Equipped with flat roofs, large surface area, and minimal tree cover, these public-school buildings are ideal places to install solar energy systems. And starting this year, all schools in Minnesota will have access to a new program designed to make solar more affordable and accessible.

In June 2021, the Minnesota Legislature established a statewide Solar for Schools incentive program which provides financial and technical assistance to schools looking to install solar. The program also requires that schools integrate the solar project into the curriculum and make it a visible learning tool for students and teachers.

The statewide program, for all schools that are not Xcel Energy customers, is administered by the Department of Commerce. This track of the program is called the Solar for Schools Grant Program and was finalized and approved at the end of 2021. The Department held several stakeholder sessions and took public comments as it designed the program, and Fresh Energy was an active participant in this process. The final program approved by the Department incorporates the recommendations related to grant size tiers based on school financial need and allowing some flexibility in the one-year timeline for solar installation. Anna Peterson, Northwest Minnesota Coordinator at Clean Energy Resource, presented to the Crookston School Board, along with Peter Lindstrom, from CERT's, on the Solar Energy for Schools Program. The program has been successfully applied for by over 100 Minnesota schools. The MN Department of Commerce Grant covers up to 70% of a solar array project for eligible applicants. Otter Tail Power also has a Publicly Owned Property Solar incentive that covers \$1,500 per kilowatt up to 50% of project installation costs that can be stacked with the Department of Commerce grant. Each array is roughly the size of a tennis court and can be installed on school roofs or the ground adjacent to the schools. The School Board approved of the Solar for School Project unanimously and there will be more to come as grant applications are already underway.





## Public Works

As winter approaches, the City of Crookston would like to remind residents and business owners of important snow removal rules:

- **Sidewalks:** Property owners/tenants are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24–48 hours after a snowfall. If not removed, the City may clear it and assess costs back to the property owner.
- **Do Not Push Snow Into Streets: It is illegal under both Crookston City Code and Minnesota State Statute** to push, blow, or place snow from sidewalks, driveways, or parking lots onto public streets, boulevards, or ditches. This creates dangerous conditions and may result in fines or liability if accidents occur.
- **Where to Store Snow:** Snow must be stored on your own property, such as your yard or driveway—not on public property or streets.

### Snow Emergencies

The Public Works Director may declare a snow emergency by 4:00 p.m. on a given day, which will take effect that same night at

midnight and last for 24 hours. An extension may be similarly declared and communicated.

During an active snow emergency, it is unlawful to park or leave any motor vehicle on any street or alley except where otherwise posted. Police are authorized to have vehicles parked in violation removed at the owner's expense.

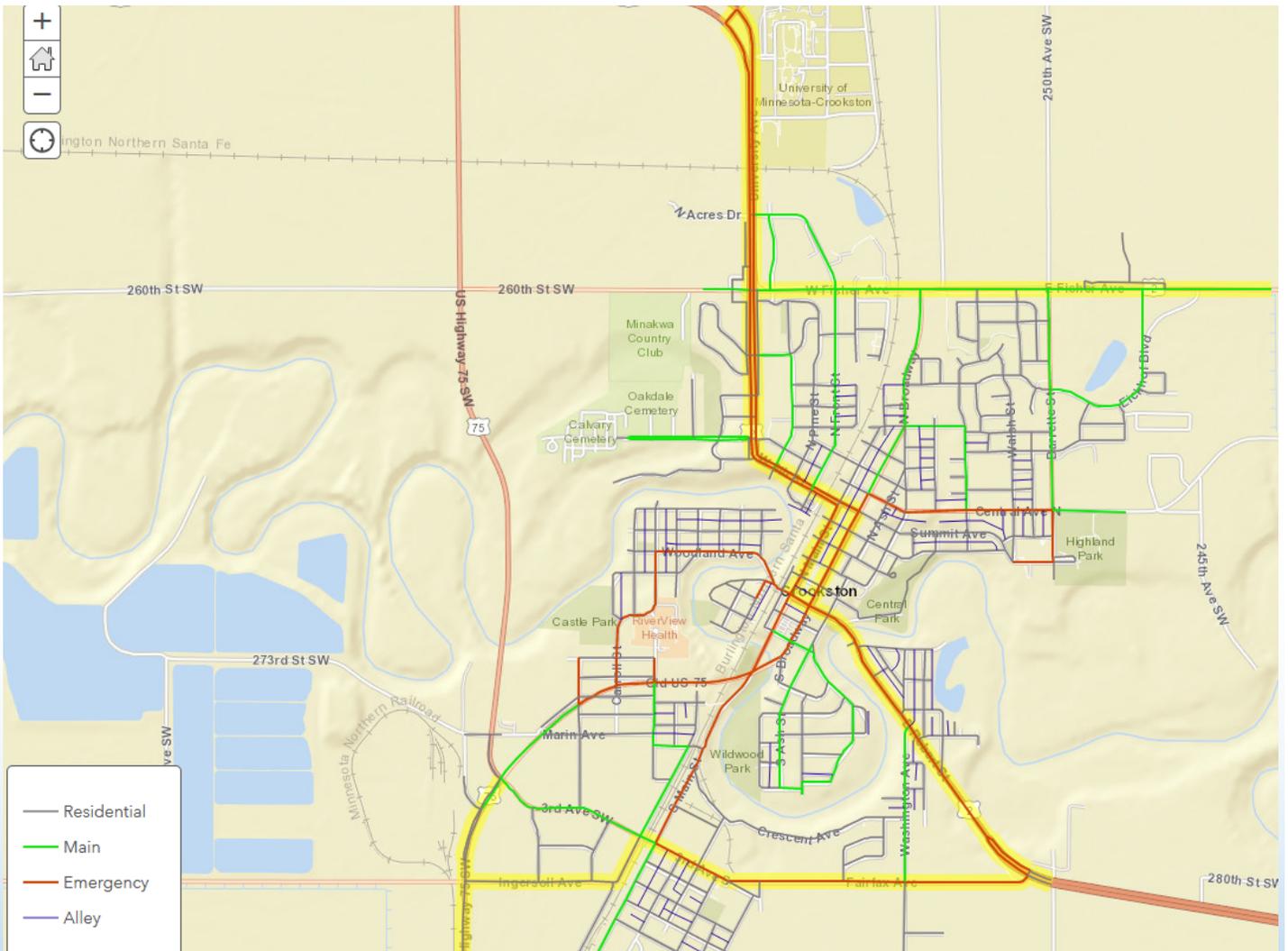
### Calendar Parking (November 14 – April 1)

From November 14 through April 1, calendar parking rules apply:

Even-numbered days: No parking on the side of the street with even-numbered addresses between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Odd-numbered days: No parking on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses during the same hours.

Note that calendar parking does not apply to downtown streets, which follow a separate schedule.





# Lake Agassiz Regional Library

## Crookston Public Library / A Branch of Lake Agassiz Regional Library

Find endless entertainment options at the Crookston Public Library!

The library offers access to a collection of over one million books, movies and other educational and entertainment items, including magazines and research tools. Library cards are free to Polk County residents and an online signup form can be found at [larl.org/applyonline](http://larl.org/applyonline).

### Family Resource Center

The Crookston Public Library also serves as host to the Crookston Family Resource Center, which is the result of a partnership between Polk County Family Resources and the Crookston Public Library bringing community resources together to meet needs related to mental health, social services, career opportunities, early childhood development and more, all in one location. Partnering organizations include Career Force, Aluma, Polk County Social Services, School District ISD 593, Polk County Public Health, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council and more.

### Events for Everyone

The library offers a number of free events, including weekly Storytimes, which are held Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. and Baby Bounce, which is held on the first and third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. The library also offers a monthly book club and a regular calendar of author visits, musical performances, informational presentations and more. A full list of events can be found at [larl.org/events](http://larl.org/events).

### Storytime

Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

Help your child develop exceptional reading skills by bringing them to Storytime. Each week, we explore different themes with stories, songs, rhymes, flannel boards, special guests and more! Storytime typically lasts for 45 minutes and is geared for children ages 3-6, although children of all ages are welcome to join the fun.

### Baby Bounce

Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Join us on Tuesday mornings for songs, stories, and action poems for infants through preschoolers and their caregivers. Don't miss this weekly family literacy event! This program runs 30-45 minutes including community with other caregivers and playtime.



The community of Crookston  
uses the Community Voice  
mobile app.



Open the camera on your  
phone and scan the  
QR code to download.



**Download and register  
today to see all of the  
local events, community  
resources, services and  
facilities.**

Are you a business owner who wants to be listed in the app? Reach out to [info@communityvoice.app](mailto:info@communityvoice.app) to get your business added or click "Claim business" in the app to control your listing.

### Community Voice Mobile App

Community Voice is an innovative mobile app that serves as a communication tool for communities. It has recently launched in Crookston and is paid for by the Crookston Visitor's Bureau so there is no cost to the end-users or businesses. It did not come out of City tax dollars. The City of Crookston will be using the app in a variety of ways including using the text feature to text residents regarding essential communication for the community.

App users can set their preferences to see what events are happening up to 100 miles around the community and set preferences for types of events shown. End-users can search for services, businesses, facilities, events, and resources for Crookston to find what they need, and they can 'opt in for notifications' from area businesses and organizations.

Community Voice also provides a user-friendly web application for community administrators and business owners to edit content, photos, and more. Business owners should download the app, use the search feature to find their business and verify the content is listed and accurate. They are also encouraged to 'claim their business' in the app to be able to control their listing. Businesses can add their events into the app by 'claiming their business'.

If you want to know what is going on in Crookston and neighboring communities, download the Community Voice mobile app on iOS and Android. Search "Community Voice" in your phone's app store. It is completely free to download, and they don't ask for any payment information.

Download today on iOS and Android



**JOLT & JIVE**  
CROOKSTON'S WEEKLY  
POWER-UP

### Jolt & Jive

#### What?

Informal coffee conversations with community members and members of city organizations such as City Hall, Crookston EDA, University of MN Crookston and more.

#### Why?

To continue the momentum our community started at the library during the "I Love Crookston" event where over 100 folks came to tell their story and express what they wanted in Crookston's future.

Every Thursday at 8am at The Cove Youth Center





**United Way  
of Crookston**

# Fall 2025

**What we're planning for fall of 2025, we hope you'll join us!**

- **Our rescheduled golf tournament will be held Friday, September 12 at Minakwa Golf Course**
- **Our annual Chili Cookoff will be held in October**
- **Our 2026 fundraising campaign will begin in October**

**The United Way of Crookston would like to thank the Crookston community for your support over our 42 year history. You have done so much good and make Crookston a community of caring.**

**To donate, join our board or find out more, visit our website,  
our Facebook or email us!**

**[www.unitedwayofcrookston.org](http://www.unitedwayofcrookston.org)**

**<https://www.facebook.com/UnitedWayofCrookston>**

**[exec@unitedwayofcrookston.org](mailto:exec@unitedwayofcrookston.org)**



## Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc

### Tri-Valley Transportation Program Breaks Ground on New Bus Storage Facility

(Crookston, Minn.)- Tri-Valley Transportation Programs celebrated a significant milestone this May with a groundbreaking ceremony for its new bus storage facility, located on Guthrie Street in Crookston.

"We are thrilled to see construction underway," said Elizabeth Hensrud, Director of Transportation Programs at Tri-Valley. "This facility represents a major step forward for our program, and it's the result of tremendous effort by our dedicated team."

The new 9,105-square-foot building will feature seven drive-through bays and accommodate storage for up to 14 Class 400 transit buses. A dedicated wash bay has also been incorporated into the design to improve the long-term maintenance and care of the fleet.

"As ride demand continues to grow, it's not uncommon to see up to eight buses operating simultaneously on city streets during the week," Hensrud added. "Once construction is complete, the facility will house five new propane-fueled buses, aligning with our commitment to sustainability and positioning us as one of the first public transportation systems in Minnesota to transition to low-emission vehicles. We are deeply appreciative of the support provided by MnDOT in making this project a reality."

The groundbreaking event was attended by representatives from Roers, MnDOT, and Tri-Valley, underscoring the collaborative effort behind this development.

For additional details about the Tri-Valley Bus Garage project, please visit: <https://www.roers.com/project/tri-valley-bus-garage>.

*Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. is a non-profit community action agency headquartered in Crookston, Minn. In existence since 1965, Tri-Valley provides services in 74 counties in Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota. The mission of Tri-Valley is to provide opportunities to improve the quality of life for people and communities. For more information on services offered and job opportunities at Tri-Valley visit the website at [www.tvoc.org](http://www.tvoc.org), follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TVOCInc](http://www.facebook.com/TVOCInc) or on Twitter at @TriValley\_TVOC.*





## Care and Share Crookston

### Exciting News: ADA Elevator Construction Begins Soon!

We're thrilled to announce that in less than two weeks, construction will begin on our long-awaited ADA-accessible elevator! This isn't just a facility upgrade, it's a vital step toward equity and access. This elevator will allow us to serve individuals with mobility challenges who currently cannot access shelter due to barriers in the built environment. Nearly 40% of the unhoused population lives with a disability, and until now, many have had nowhere to turn. This project changes that.

### Safety Is Urgent: A Shelter Is More Than a Roof

In recent weeks, there has been a disturbing increase in the criminalization of homelessness, including incidents of arrests and forced displacements of unhoused people in nearby communities. These actions only increase trauma and instability. Our shelter remains a safe haven in a time when safety is being stripped from too many. We are committed to providing refuge, not punishment. But that commitment takes resources and community.

### Program Cuts = Rising Need

As state and federal funding continues to shrink, we are facing cuts to:

- Emergency shelter expansion efforts
- Mental health outreach teams
- Housing navigation and case management services

With fewer supports available and increasing need, our shelter is seeing greater demand than ever before.

### Renovation Grants Help, But Not with Daily Needs

While we are incredibly grateful for the Renovations Grant funding the new elevator, we want to clarify that this funding is restricted: it can only be used for the specific upgrades listed in the grant. It does not support general operating costs like:

- Staffing
- Food and hygiene supplies
- Utilities
- Transportation for clients

Finding open grants for general operating support continues to be a major challenge, especially in rural areas like ours.

### Community Support Keeps Our Doors Open

Thanks to your donations, volunteer time, and encouragement, we've been able to stay open through every challenge. Your support is not just appreciated, it is essential. Because of you, we've provided hundreds of safe nights, warm meals, and second chances.

### Fundraising at Ox Cart Days: Powered by Love

At this year's Ox Cart Days, our board, staff, and volunteers came together for a heartfelt and flavorful fundraiser! We hosted a sidewalk sale featuring:

- Native American fry bread tacos
- Homemade tamales
- Baked goods
- A powerful Native American dance performance

This event wasn't just about raising funds, it was about raising spirits, showcasing culture, and coming together for a cause that matters. We're excited to keep this momentum going! Got an idea for our next fundraiser? We'd love to hear it. Let's keep building creative, community-powered ways to sustain this work.

### The Power of Prayer, Intention, and Collective Energy

Every morning, we speak positive affirmations and pray for this organization, our staff, and most importantly, the people we serve. We believe in the power of intention and the energy we send out into the universe. When we lead with gratitude and love, we invite abundance and hope to flow back in. This practice, rooted in Indigenous wisdom and spiritual resilience, is a reminder that we are not alone in this work. And neither are the people we serve.

### Together, We Transform Lives

When a community comes together, united by compassion, we can change lives. Every act of kindness, every donated dollar, every volunteer hour contributes to a powerful network of love and support for those in crisis. Thank you for being part of our journey. Please stay connected, stay generous, and stay hopeful. We believe in the power of this community, and we know that together, we are unstoppable.

*With heartfelt gratitude,  
Carolina Diaz - Shelter. Safety. Dignity for all.*



Crookston, MN – Whether you need CPR certification or first aid training to fulfill a job requirement or want the knowledge to know what to do in an emergency, RiverView Health has a class for you.

### CPR Classes

RiverView offers two CPR classes on the second Thursday of each month – one for certification and the other provided free of charge for general knowledge.

RiverView’s HeartSaver CPR AED (automated external defibrillator) class is for those needing certification. The cost is \$60; this includes the HeartSaver CPR AED eCard and book. This class is 4 hours (6-10 pm) with a test at the end of the session.

The Friends and Family class is for those who do not need certification. This class is free of charge thanks to the generous support of Crookston American Legion Post 20. Participants will learn basic information about what to do in life-threatening situations. Each participant will receive a Friends and Family CPR book. This class is 4 hours (6-10 pm); no test or card is given at completion.

### The following classes remain in 2025:

- Sept. 11
- Oct. 9
- Nov. 13
- Dec. 11

### First Aid Classes

RiverView offers quarterly first aid classes for anyone wanting to make their home and community a safer place by knowing how to administer first aid for acute injuries and sudden illnesses such as burns, bites, poisoning, and seizures.

Register now for the final 2025 first aid class scheduled for Nov. 6.

### Registration Information

All classes are held in the RiverView Home Care Building, 721 S. Minnesota Street, Crookston. Registration is required, with payment due at the time of registration. To register or for more information, call 281-9536.

RiverView offers these classes as part of its American Heart Association (AHA) Community Training Center. Contracted Community Training Centers, like RiverView, are the only sites permitted to offer AHA classes to the public and professionals through their affiliated instructors and programs.

*The AHA is not responsible for any fees for these classes. The AHA strongly promotes knowledge and proficiency in all AHA classes and has developed instructional materials. Using these materials in an educational class does not represent sponsorship by the AHA. Fees charged for a class, except for a portion for AHA materials, do not represent income to the AHA.*



## Prairie Skyline Foundation

### News from Prairie Skyline Foundation:

We had a great time watching the kids make huge Bubbles at Night to Unite! Now, for some fundraising: We are accepting donations of clean used items for our Rummage Sale on the King of Trails Day, September 6th. Sale is 9-5 on the steps to the Old Cathedral. Proceeds support the restoration of the Old Cathedral and the former Methodist Church. Due to illness, we ask that you call first, set up a time to bring to the Old Cathedral, and assist in hauling items inside. Please no clothing. Thank you in advance for helping us out! 218-289-1246.





## Get Kids Outdoors

Discover the wonders of nature by getting kids outdoors

### What We Do

Provide opportunities for youth to experience outdoor activities

### Our Events

Stay up to date with all of our upcoming events on our website and social media

### How can you help

When you support Get Kids Outdoors 501(c)3, you're not just making a donation—you're transforming lives. Every contribution supports our mission to get kids outdoors who wouldn't otherwise have that opportunity. Together, we can create opportunities, foster hope, and build a brighter future for youth. Your generosity powers meaningful change, and no gift is too small to make an impact. Join us today and be part of something bigger—together, we can make a lasting difference.



## CROOKSTON EVENTS

This is just a small overview of events coming up, be sure to use the Community Voice mobile app to learn more about daily events in Crookston!



### Downtown Crookston Development Partnership Summer Events

#### Crookston Farmers Market

- 4pm-6:30pm
- Downtown Central Square - Corner of N Ash St & E 3rd St in Downtown Crookston
- Every Thursday from June – September
- Local farmers offer produce bred for taste & freshness. The market provides consumers with natural & organic vegetables, produce, meat, flowers, herbs, jams, jellies, fruit, grains, homemade artisan breads, baked goods, home processed products & homemade crafts.



#### King of Trails City Wide Garage Sale

- Saturday, September 6th
- Registration Deadline – September 3rd
- King of Trails City Wide Garage Sale is an annual event in Crookston where residents can sign up to be listed as a location during the all-day garage sale shopping event. Residents and visitors can spend the day shopping around Crookston finding great listings such as furniture, clothing, antiques and more.
- Listings and maps will be available online at [www.crookston.mn.us](http://www.crookston.mn.us) and at local gas stations by Thursday, September 4th

#### 20th Annual Red River Valley Sugarbeet Museum Harvest Festival

- Sunday, September 7th
- 10:30am-4pm
- RRV Sugarbeet Museum, Crookston, MN
- The Red River Valley Sugarbeet Museum Annual Harvest Festival in Crookston returns and it's a great opportunity to learn more about the history of sugarbeets in the Red River Valley
- Beet Harvest – 11am / Tractor Pull – 12pm
- Harvesting sugarbeets with vintage machines and many other items on display including a Steam Thrasher and Agri-MAX Drone Demonstration
- Food trucks available for lunch and free bus rides between the Sugarbeet Museum & Polk County Historical Museum
- For more information, see [sugarbeetmuseum.com](http://sugarbeetmuseum.com) or call (218) 280-8181

#### Polk County Historical Society Pioneer Day

- Sunday, September 7th
- 11am-5pm
- Polk County Museum – 719 E Robert St, Crookston, MN 56716
- Event opens with lunch being served, including pie
- Exhibits, Tours, and Demonstrations throughout the day
- On-going activities, live music, wagon rides and more



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
CROOKSTON

#### UMC Fall Sports

- Men's Hockey / Women's Soccer / Women's Volleyball / Men's & Women's Basketball
- Full scheduled for all UMC Fall sports can be found at <https://crk.umn.edu/>

#### UMC Homecoming and Family Weekend 2025

- September 29th – October 5th
- View all details at [crk.umn.edu](http://crk.umn.edu)

#### UMC 3rd Annual Book Talk with Author Kari Lie Dorer

- October 20th at 4pm
- Sargeant Student Center
- Reading, Q&A, and Book Signing

#### UMC Art Gallery Kickoff and Reception with artist Pieper Fleck Bloomquist

- October 20th at 5pm
- Bede Ballroom
- Gallery of Pieper Fleck Bloomquist's Swedish art, appetizers, and short presentation Night to Unite on Facebook.

