



# THE CITY OF CROOKSTON

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# WINTER 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

### Important Phone Numbers

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

### Housing & Economic Development Association Meeting:

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

### Charter Commission:

- Annually
- Crookston City Hall Council Chambers

## City Hall Closed:

- Veterans Day – November 11th
- Thanksgiving – November 27th & 28th
- Christmas Day – December 25th
- New Years Day – January 1st
- Martin Luther King Jr Day – January 19th
- Presidents Day – February 16th



# Crookston City Council Highlights

September 2025

## Joseph Shostell was sworn in as the new Ward 1 Council Member

Joseph took his oath of office and is now the City Council representative for Ward 1.



## Council Budget Discussion

After over an hour of budget discussion, the Council agreed on two things. The first item was they want to keep the levy at a 0% increase next year after two hefty increases. The second thing that was decided was four more budget meetings because all cities have to have the preliminary levy by September 30. A lot of the capital items will be up for discussion. The operating budgets are fairly straightforward, prioritization of the capital, what high-risk items are, and what more routine items are.

## Health Insurance News

The City's health insurance premiums will have a zero percent increase in 2026, saving the City money in the 2026 budget. Police Chief Darin Selzler also informed the council that because the City's usage was so low, the Minnesota Service Co-op will give them a \$35,000 rebate.

## Budget Discussion - Grant and Donations Discussion

The Council had a lengthy discussion on the non-profit grants they will offer in 2026. In 2025, the City awarded six organizations grants, but in 2026, they discussed only giving two organizations funding. The Golden Link Senior Center received \$75,000 in 2025, and the City is looking at doing the same amount in 2026. Tri-Valley Transportation received \$16,000 in 2025, and they will likely get the same amount in 2026. In 2025, the City also funded the Ox Cart Days Festival by giving it \$6,000 toward fireworks. Get Kids Outdoors – Adam Parnow Memorial Inc. \$5,000, the Downtown Crookston Development Partnership \$15,000, and Scruffy Tails Humane Society \$8,000.

## Budget Discussion – Crookston Community Swimming Pool

Most of the discussion was about how much the equipment repairs should cost. So far in 2025, the City has spent \$89,000 on equipment repairs, with some of the money donated by Fit and Fin. The budget for 2025 was \$25,000, so the Council wanted to double it for 2026. The pool runs at a deficit of \$250,000, and with the budget and more income coming in, it should stay the same in 2026, or possibly be better with more revenue coming in. The council continued conversation on the future of the pool. Council Member Dylane Klatt said he doesn't expect the pool to make it five years, and they need to start looking at a plan for the future.

## Budget Discussion – Crookston Sports Center

The Crookston Community Fund is buying blow-up games that will be used at the arena and could be rented along with the turf, which went along with the discussion of promoting the Sports Center more to drive additional revenue. Another idea to increase revenue was charging for open skating and open hockey. Each department has a capital improvement project wish list, and Butt said his top priority was to repair the lights at the Ecklund Complex tennis courts. There was also discussion of charging the Crookston Blue Line Club rent for the office at the Crookston Sports Center, which they haven't done for several years. The Blue Line Club recently bought a skating treadmill and wants to put it in the community room at the arena, so they also discussed charging the club for the use of the room.

## Crookston City Council approves Fit and Fin donation to the Crookston Community Pool

Carol Gregg of Fit and Fin, Marianne and Lucy Isaacs, and Katie, Warren, and Beau Proulx spoke to the Council and thanked them for supporting the Crookston Community Pool. Katie Proulx said the \$5,300 was raised by 14 lemonade stands, each run by two or three families. \$3,300 is going towards boiler repairs and \$2,000 is going towards an inflatable volleyball court for the pool.

## Budget Discussion – Police Department

The Crookston Police Department has 18 police officers and two administrative assistants/dispatchers on staff and a proposed budget of \$3,331,372 for 2026, which includes Capital Improvement Project requests. There isn't much of a change other than salary increases, which are part of the contract. The other line items stayed mainly the same. The Police Department has a new squad car in the capital improvement requests at \$75,000. Another capital improvement request is \$30,000 to repair the retaining wall behind the station, as the bricks are starting to erode.

## Budget Discussion – Fire Department

The Crookston Fire Department, which has six full-time employees, has a proposed budget of \$1,278,270, an increase of just over \$300,000. Most of the increase comes from contractual increases for salaries and benefits. Fire Chief Shane Heldstab said one added cost is that OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) requires annual physicals for full-time firefighters. Heldstab said the Fire Department has a few items on its Capital Improvement needs list. The first item is turnout gear, also known as personal protective equipment. The second item is \$92,000 towards the fire apparatus (fire truck) fund. The cost of a new fire truck is around \$850,000, so saving up is essential.



### **Budget Discussion – Community Development**

Karie Kirschbaum and Taylor Wyum of the Crookston Housing and Economic Development Authority presented the Community Development budget. Kirschbaum noted that since she has come to Crookston, they have received between \$8 million to \$9 million in grants. Professional fees from \$20,000 in 2025 to \$80,000 in 2026 were one item in the budget that saw an increase. Some projects will be happening in 2026, and that comes with more professional fees such as architects, engineers, surveys, and preparations. Childcare and housing shortages are a big deal across the state, including Crookston. CHEDA is working with First Children’s Finance and received a grant to help with childcare.

### **Budget Discussion – Valley Technology Park**

The Valley Technology Park budget was another quick presentation, but SEH said it needs a new roof at an estimated cost of \$350,000. Although it doesn’t look like it will happen in 2026, it needs to be on the radar.

### **Budget Discussion – Public Works**

The largest budget request for 2026 was two construction projects costing an estimated \$1,700,000. The first project is on South Front Street, where a sinkhole has formed because of the ground shifting, causing the storm sewer system to become misaligned, which causes water to pool in that spot. The second item was a water main break prone area at South Minnesota and Strander, where five water main breaks occurred in two years. They would close a loop in the water line in that area that has left businesses and homes without water. Public Works also has money budgeted for 2026 to go towards new Christmas lights, and he plans to do it over the next three years to replace the current lights.

### **Budget Discussion – Library**

Chris Boike, Crookston Public Library Director, went over the proposed 2026 library budget with the Council. The budget ask is 6.1 percent more than in 2025, which would be \$256,380 total. They are looking for an increase for the coming year mainly to cover some of the wage increases. Another ask from the Crookston Public Library is \$15,000 for a new digital sign. The estimated cost of a sign would be around \$30,000 and they are asking the City to cover half the cost (\$15,000) and will get donations and fundraise for the rest.

### **Budget Discussion – Airport**

The Crookston Municipal Airport budget was presented, and the Council went over the numbers. The expected revenue is \$280,500 and the expenses, including capital improvement projects is estimated to be \$462,835. Almost half of the expenses

are capital improvement project requests. The City along with the airport are looking into applying for a grant to pay for a new mower, which could help save up to \$18,000 a year. The mower they would look at buying is \$150,000 and they would apply for a grant to help pay for it.

The grant is a 70/30 match, and the City would have to pay (30 percent) \$45,000 for the mower.

### **Budget Discussion – Capital Improvements**

The Department Heads are asking/wishing/requesting a total of \$7,115,250 in capital improvement projects. The Council is tasked with deciding which projects, if any, will be funded. Interim City Administrator and Police Chief, Darin Selzler, told the Council that there are some capital improvement projects the City has to pay. Some of the requests from the Park and Rec Department and Public Works requests are part of a lease agreement and need to be paid. Other items that have to be funded are in the Water Department with the funding of water main and sewer line replacement for when they break throughout the year.

The list of Capital Improvement requests are below.

#### **Airport:**

- Hanger sheeting – \$150,000
- Replace/re-route outdated waterlines – \$17,000
- Crack sealing – \$16,000
- Office table and chairs – \$5,000
- Lawnmower (grant 70/30 match – \$45,000) – \$150,000

**Total - \$238,000**

#### **Fire Department:**

- Turn out gear – \$15,000
- Fire vehicle fund – \$92,000
- Auto extraction tool – \$18,000
- Air handling unit replacement – \$25,000
- Water heater replacement – \$20,000
- 20’ enclosed trailer – \$10,000
- GasTrac Laser gas detector – \$15,000
- Lawn tractor with snow blower – \$25,000
- Radio replacement reserves – \$10,000
- Concrete apron at the fire hall – \$15,000
- Replace garage bay #2 overhead door – \$8,500

**Total - \$253,500**

#### **Finance Department:**

- Replace/update office furniture – \$1,500

# Crookston City Council Highlights - continued from page 4

## Information Technology:

- Getac MTD Squad computer – \$7,250
- Verge.io hardware – \$80,000
- Verge.io licensing – \$40,500
- Verge.io install/training – \$3,000
- Network upgrade reserves – \$50,000
- 3-year workstation replacement – \$24,000

**Total - \$204,750**

## Crookston Public Library:

- Digital sign for the library – \$15,000

## Police Department:

- Squad car and vehicle emergency equipment – \$75,000
- Replace service pistols – \$18,000
- Investigator squad-reserve fund – \$20,000
- Speed display signs – \$10,000
- Back parking lot retaining wall repair – \$30,000
- Basement upgrades – \$10,000
- Police radio-reserve fund – \$20,000

**Total - \$183,000**

## Parks & Recreation:

- John Deere mower lease (annual payment) – \$57,500
- Hustler Super 104 mower – \$35,000
- Boss pick-up snowplow – \$10,000
- Polaris UTV – \$25,000
- John Deere snow blower – \$8,500
- Replace lights at Ray Ecklund Tennis courts – \$75,000
- Replace light pole on diamond 1 – \$60,000
- Install pickleball court at Ray Ecklund complex – \$55,000
- Zamboni battery replacement fund – \$5,000
- Replace zamboni garage doors and openers – \$15,000

**Total - \$346,000**

## Public Works:

- CAT lease payment – payload – \$39,000
- Streetlight reserve fund – \$20,000
- AE CIP project (S. Minnesota Street/Strandner and South Front Street) – Bond – \$1,700,000
- Sand spreader – \$35,000
- Heated pressure washer – \$10,000
- Dump truck with a box and plow – \$190,000
- Crew Cab F-350 pick-up – \$75,000
- Mosquito sprayer – \$22,000
- Telehandler – \$250,000

**Total - \$2,341,000**

## Public Works:

- Watermain replacements – \$300,000
- Well Field Water Supply upgrade/study – internet study – \$150,000
- Water plant dehumidifier replacement – \$250,000

**Total - \$700,000**

## Public Works Wastewater:

- Sewer line replacement – \$75,000
- Sewer main rehab – \$300,000
- Manhole rehab – \$75,000
- Rip rap for lagoons – \$50,000
- Sludge and H25 reduction program — \$35,000
- Wastewater master plan and Model-MS4 program and recert – \$250,000
- LS4 and LS5 improvements – new wetwell and control plan – \$1,500,000
- Construction shed for Lift Station #3 – \$15,000
- 2 stand alone generators for lift stations – \$100,000

**Total - \$2,400,000**

## Valley Technology Park:

- Replace roof on the Valley Technology Park building – \$350,000

## Non-Profit Applications

The Council heard from non-profit groups that applied for the non-profit grant program that the City of Crookston offers. There were eight applicants, with six of them attending the meeting and pitching to the Council for the requested funds. The eight non-profits and the monetary request are listed below.

- Golden Link – \$75,000 (towards operating costs)
- Care and Share – \$20,000 (to go towards the shelter and the services they provide)
- Tri-Valley Transportation – \$17,000 (to go towards the bus service that provided 91,933 rides in 2024)
- Linus' Legacy – \$15,000 (towards pet rescues – they were not in attendance)
- Alluma Foundation – \$10,700 (for a walk-in shower at the adult foster care home)
- Scruffy Tails – \$7,000 (towards the shelter – they were not in attendance)
- Ox Cart Days Festival – \$6,000 (to go towards fireworks)
- Downtown Crookston Development Partnership – \$5,000 (to go towards downtown events)

Last year, the City of Crookston gave \$120,000 in funding to the non-profits, and the Council made it clear that due to budget constraints, there will likely be less given out in 2026. The Council seemed to agree that the Golden Link Senior Center and Tri-Valley Transportation were at the top of the list, along with Ox Cart Days. Before any decision is made, the Council wants to get the concrete budget numbers.

## City Council sets preliminary 2026 levy at 8%

After a lengthy discussion, the Council proposed an eight percent increase in the preliminary levy for 2026. The final levy can't exceed eight percent when it is decided in December, but it can go lower. The state requires cities, counties, and school districts to have their preliminary levy in by 11:59 p.m. on September 30 each year. This gives the city time to reduce any additional reductions or cuts to try to reduce that number. The Council's approval of an eight percent increase in the preliminary levy would bring an estimated \$358,000 extra to the

# Crookston City Council Highlights - continued from page 5

it stays at eight percent, homeowners will see a slight increase in their city taxes in 2026. An 8% increase on a \$150,000 home would increase taxes approximately \$35 a year. On a \$250,000 home, approximately \$70 a year

## Capital Improvement Projects Included in Preliminary Levy

The Council whittled the \$7.4 million capital improvement project list to \$1,486,000. Typically, CIPs are larger projects each department tries to do or plans for each year. So that was a reduction from the original approximately \$7 million. The CIP revised list of items included in the latest budget are below.

### Airport:

- Crack sealing – \$16,000
- Grant projects (Admin fees) – \$7,500
- Lawn mower (only if they get a grant, which the City's share would be \$45,000) – \$150,000

### Fire Department:

- Turn out gear – \$15,000
- Fire vehicle fund – \$92,000

### Finance Department:

- Replace/update office furniture – \$1,500

### Information Technology:

- Verge.io Hardware – \$80,000
- Verge.io Licensing – \$40,500
- Verge.io Install/Training – \$3,000
- 3-year workstation replacement – \$24,000

### Police Department:

- Squad car and vehicle emergency equipment – \$75,000

### Parks & Recreation:

- John Deere mower lease (annual payment) – \$57,000
- Zamboni battery replacement fund – \$5,000

### Public Works:

- CAT lease payment-payloader – \$39,000
- Street light reserve fund – \$20,000
- AES CIP project (South Minnesota Street/Strandner and South Front Street) – will bond (\$1,700,000)
- Watermain replacements – \$300,000
- Internet and control upgrade – \$25,000
- Sewer line replacement – \$75,000
- Sewer main rehab – \$300,000
- Manhole rehab – \$75,000
- Rip Rap for lagoons – \$50,000
- Sludge and H2S reduction program – \$35,000

## October 2025

### City Council approves variance for B & E Meats expansion

City Council unanimously approved a variance request from Brent Epema and B & E Meats to expand the building to add a beef and pork processing facility. The Crookston Planning Commission recommended that the variance request and the change of the zoning ordinance be approved. Crookston City Attorney Tanner Holten explained to the council what they were voting on at the

meeting. This was an application from B&E Meats to modify the setback requirements under our city code. Essentially, what B&E Meats asked for and what was approved was that the setbacks be reduced. It allows his building to be closer to the property line than our ordinances customarily would allow. The next step would be a public hearing on the zoning request.

### Public Hearing on Amending and Ordinance

A public hearing was held regarding the City amending the City of Crookston zoning ordinance by allowing a slaughterhouse in the Heavy Industrial Zone. Four members of the public, including two neighbors spoke about the possible change to the ordinance. The requested change comes from B & E Meats looking to add the processing of beef and pork at its business. The first person to speak was Charles Eickhof of Eickhof Columbarium, across the street from B & E Meats, who stated that that due process was given to the property owners in neighboring places. They are really trying to look out for themselves and what could be some very long-term consequences. Once you maybe permit some of these uses, it can open Pandora's box.

Robin Benson of RBB Electric, who owns the lot next to B & E Meats supported the change to allow slaughterhouses in the Industrial Park saying he thinks he has always had a concern that communities can limit themselves by not allowing more infrastructure to occur. Whether it's being able to add to the basis of what a building does, and how each and every increase that every business can do really can help all of us all the way around. Whether it's adding more jobs, building new houses, you're visiting Crookston more. City council will make a decision at the next City Council meeting on Monday, November 3.

### \$3.3 Million Grant for the Industrial Park Accepted

Project Coordinator at Crookston EDA, Taylor Wyum, gave a presentation on bonding for the Industrial Park Infrastructure. CHEDA and the City are looking at bonding for the Industrial Park Infrastructure project to help pay for the project. The grant will give the EDA some funding that will help the City in being able to make the Infrastructure Project happen. The City will have to bond for the remaining portion of the project, hopefully less if we get some other funds into the community. When this grant was written and submitted in 2024, there were a handful of businesses that offered letters of interest or letters of commitment for the project. They were interested in locating here, and we've talked to some of them recently, and they're still interested.

The Council approved accepting the \$3.3 million matching grant from the United States Economic Development Administration's Public Works Economic Adjustment Assistance program. The vote was 5 to 3 in favor. Voting for the grant was Morgan Hibma, Joseph Shostell, Henry Fischer, Clayton Briggs, and Don Cavalier. Voting no were Derek Brekken, Dylane Klatt, and Wendy Ault. The grant will help fund infrastructure improvements at the Industrial Park for roads, water, wastewater, and holding ponds, among other items. Total cost of the project is an estimated \$7.1 million.

# Crookston City Council Highlights - continued from page 6

November 2025

## New City Administrator Search

City Council reviewed four finalists for the City Administrator position. After some discussion, the Council was unanimous in its lack of confidence in any of the finalists and decided to start another search, possibly using a search firm this time.

## Highway 2 Corridor Grant Application

The Council approved submitting a Small Cities Development Grant (SCDG) application for \$600,000 to assist with the City's portion of the main water replacement associated with the Highway 2 Corridor Improvement Project. The SCDG grant would provide \$600,000 in funding to assist the City of Crookston with its portion of the cost of replacing the existing water main associated with the Highway 2 Corridor Reconstruct Project, scheduled for 2027. If Crookston were able to secure the grant, there would be no match for this grant, which would save Crookston taxpayers \$600,000 on the project.

## 2026 Non-Profit Grants

The Council decided to fund four of the eight non-profit grants that were requested. The total money requested is \$168,700 and the Council approved \$113,000. The Golden Link will receive \$75,000, Tri-Valley will receive \$17,000, Care and Share will receive \$15,000, and Ox Cart Days will receive \$6,000. A vote on the Downtown Crookston Development Partnership was held, but it was defeated 5-3, with Don Cavalier, Joseph Shostell, and Clayton Briggs voting in favor, and Derek Brekken, Dylane Klatt, Wendy Ault, Morgan Hibma, and Henry Fischer voting against. The other three organizations, Alluma Foundation, Linus' Legacy, and Scruffy Tails Humane Society didn't get a vote and won't get any money.

## Amending the Ordinance to Allow Slaughterhouses in the Industrial Park

The Council held the second and final reading of an ordinance amending the City of Crookston Zoning Ordinance to allow a slaughterhouse/processing facility in the Industrial Park, specifically B & E Meats, which will expand its operations at its current location. The Council is in favor of amending the ordinance, but they had a lengthy discussion on several topics. Most of the discussion was on stipulations/restrictions they would like to see implemented with the ordinance change.

Three items they seemed to agree on were that it would be a USDA-approved facility, limiting the number of animals that could be processed, and that no feedlots would be allowed. The next step is a discussion at the Ways and Means Committee meeting on Monday, November 17, with a planned vote at the following City Council meeting on December 1.

## Cannabis Regulations

City Council discussed Cannabis regulations, now that the State has given more guidelines for cities and counties. The state allows one cannabis shop per 12,000 people, which would allow three businesses in Polk County. Shops can operate from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and there are six different types of businesses the state allows. Micro businesses, Mezzo businesses, Cannabis retailers, Municipal Cannabis businesses, Medical Cannabis, and Lower Potency Hemp businesses, which communities cannot limit. Several people have inquired about possibly opening a business in Crookston. Moving forward with the application process and the licensing process and considering how the City will determine which businesses to choose from if we have an influx of several interested parties. Consensus again tonight was like a lottery system, open it up for a period of time, allow people to apply, and then select through a lottery system on who might be eligible to come into the city of Crookston.

## Anchor Marketing Contract

The Council approved a \$30,000 contract with Anchor Marketing of Grand Forks at the request of Crookston Economic Development to help promote the City and the Industrial Park and possible housing additions in the community. Anchor Marketing has worked with several local communities in support of their economic development efforts. Among these groups are the City of Fosston and Perham to provide marketing and advertising services for their Progressive Perham economic development initiative. Anchor Marketing will help create the following items for the City of Crookston:

- Strategic communications plan development
- Logo, tagline, positioning statement
- Brand guide creation
- Key messaging development
- Graphic and messaging website updates
- Paid and earned media campaign



# Crookston Police Department

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

This year's 38th Annual Halloween Food Drive was a huge success again this year. Each year this event is co-sponsored by the Crookston Police Department and the Crookston High School Leo Club. It took place on Halloween Night on Friday October 31st from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the Crookston High School in the west parking lot. We gave away approximately 70lbs of candy or approximately 150 bags of candy and raised just over 1600lbs of food for the Care and Share food shelf

### Safety Awareness and Prevention:

#### Cold Weather Safety

- Dress in layers; include hats, gloves, scarves, and waterproof boots to prevent frostbite.



- Limit time outside in extreme cold; take warm-up breaks indoors.
- Watch for signs of hypothermia (shivering, confusion, slurred speech) and frostbite (numbness, pale or waxy skin).
- Stay dry; wet clothing greatly increases heat loss.

#### Winter Driving & Travel Safety

- Drive slowly on icy or snowy roads and increase following distance.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full in cold weather.
- Clear all snow and ice from windows, mirrors, and lights before driving.
- Carry a winter car kit: scraper, shovel, blanket, sand/kitty litter (for traction), jumper cables.
- Keep phones charged before traveling or during storms.
- Avoid unnecessary travel during storms or advisories.

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

This winter we would remind everyone about becoming a Hydrant Hero and contacting the Fire Department, so that we can have an idea of how many hydrants are being taken care of. We also want to let everyone know that we will come out and perform a safe home Crookston survey (checking smoke and carbon monoxide detectors) for those residents of 60 years age or older. If they are in need of a carbon monoxide detector, they will receive one. We just ask that you call and set up an appointment (218) 281- 4584. We do smoke surveys for everyone in town that is unsure if their smoke and carbon monoxide are functioning properly.

*Hope everyone has a safe and fun winter.  
Please follow us on Facebook*

# Be A Hydrant Hero

Did you know that a fire can double in size every minute? It can take critical time for a firefighter to dig out a fire hydrant that is covered with ice or snow, which is why we are calling for your help. The **Crookston Fire Department** is looking for Hydrant Heroes to help keep our community fire hydrants clear of debris, ice, and snow. Please be a hydrant hero and adopt one of over 400 Crookston hydrants by volunteering to keep it clear 3 feet in all directions and to the street this winter.



You can simply just call the fire hall and tell us your with your name, address, and what hydrant you'd like to adopt. Residents who register will be entered into a drawing for a gift card, awarded every two weeks, winners will be announced in the media. Clever, family-friendly hydrant names are encouraged.



## Parks & Recreation

### Crookston Pool Swim Lesson Sessions:

Swimming for ages 3 and older. Swimmers will get placed in the correct level the week prior to class. Calls will be made to each parent for placement. \*Child must be potty-trained.

### January 19th-29th (Monday-Thursday)

- Sessions 11a: 4:30-5pm
- Sessions 11b: 5pm-5:30pm
- Sessions 11c: 5:30-6pm
- Cost: \$80/child

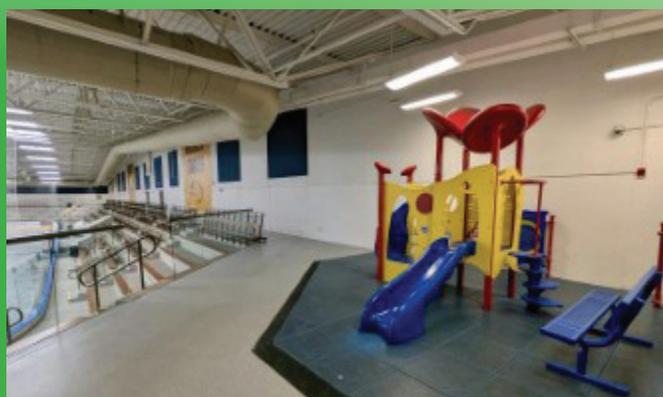
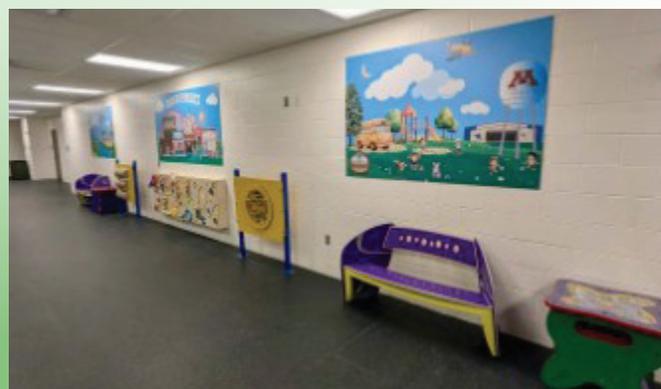
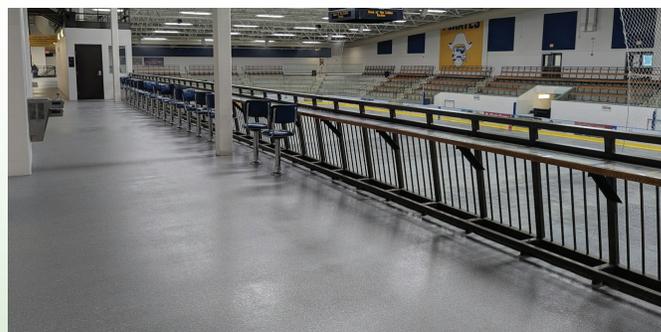
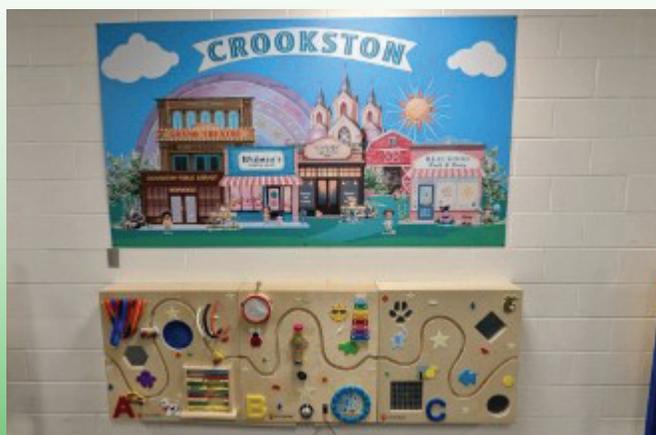


### February 16th-26th (Monday-Thursday)

- Session 12a: 4:30-5pm
- Session 12b: 5-5:30pm
- Session 12c: 5:30-6pm
- Cost: \$80/child

### March 16th-26th (Monday-Thursday)

- Session 13a: 4:30-5pm
- Session 13b: 5-5:30pm
- Session 13c: 5:30-6pm
- Cost: \$80/child



### Crookston Sports Center:

- Mite Jamboree home tournament will be held Jan 3rd.
- Throughout the season we have youth, high school, and UMC games. You can find the schedule on [www.crookstonrecreation.org](http://www.crookstonrecreation.org) or visit the city website.
- The Crookston Figure Skating Club & Parks & Recreation will host their DREAMS ON ICE show March 7th & 8th.
- All this information can be found on our website - <https://www.crookston.mn.us/258/Parks-Recreation>

# Crookston Community Pool Hours



## 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

Closed

## HOMESCHOOL SWIM

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

*\*When attending family swim-parent/guardian attends with child.*

## Birthday Party Rentals

Rentals 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!



# **WALKING MEMBERSHIPS**

## **Annual Membership January 1st - December 31st**

Adults: \$30.00

Seniors: \$25.00 (Ages 65 and over)

No pro-ration of membership

To register, visit the Parks and Recreation office at 801 Fisher Ave.

### **Guidelines:**

Walking permitted during Fall/Winter CSC business hours

- 6:00 AM - 10:00 PM Monday-Thursday
- 6:00 AM - 8:00 PM Friday
- 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM Saturday-Sunday

Walking permitted during Summer CSC business hours

- 7:00 AM-4:30 PM Monday-Thursday
- 7:00 AM-11 AM Friday
- Closed Sat & Sunday

\*Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, New Years Day.

Walking permitted on upper level only

Proper exercise attire must be worn while using the facility

Walking is not permitted during high school or college games or paid events

Visit [crookstonrecreation.org](http://crookstonrecreation.org) for those days.

### **Distance:**

Upper level track is 1/4 mile - 4 complete laps (event rink and practice rinks) = 1 mile

Upper level track - 8 laps around event rink only = 1 mile

Please use east doors to enter facility

### **Safety:**

To reduce the risk of possible injury at the CSC, please do not push through crowds or open doors quickly. Please use the facility in a safe and courteous manner. Non-compliance will result in the loss of membership.

### **Questions or Information**

· Please call Crookston Parks & Rec offices at (218) 281-1242



## Crookston Housing & Economic Development Authority Crookston Connected: Your City in Action Sponsored by Crookston Housing & EDA



**Save the Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026  
4:30–7:00 p.m. | The Crookston Inn**

Get ready to connect, discover, and celebrate Crookston!

Join us for Crookston Connected, a fun, interactive evening that brings together City staff, Council Members, boards, and community partners—all in one place. This is your chance to learn what’s happening across our city, ask questions, share ideas, and see Crookston’s progress up close.

City departments and boards will host a booth filled with updates, visuals, and hands-on activities. From upcoming projects and neighborhood highlights to future plans and local successes, you’ll get to see how every part of City Hall connects to you and your community.

Enjoy casual conversations, light hors d’oeuvres, and a chance to meet the people shaping Crookston’s future.

Because building a great community starts with connection—your city, your ideas, and your voice.

Mark your calendar for January 29, 2026.

We can’t wait to see you at The Crookston Inn for this first-ever Crookston Connected event!

### Empower Crookston

Empower Crookston continues to support our community through education, innovation, and practical resources that help residents and businesses thrive. From learning how to make your home more efficient and comfortable to exploring how new technologies can support local job growth and business development, Empower Crookston is connecting people with the tools and knowledge that make a real difference.

This fall, Empower Crookston partnered with Fresh Energy and the University of Minnesota Crookston to host the Renew Hwy 2 Tour. This engaging and informative event sparked great conversations about community resilience, innovation, and opportunities in Northwest Minnesota. The event was a tremendous success, and we’re grateful to both Fresh Energy and the University of Minnesota Crookston for their leadership and collaboration.

(Read more about it on Fresh Energy’s blog here.)

Be part of the conversation at:

# Crookston Connected

A community collaboration that relies on your input.

**January 29, 2026 4:30– 7p.m.**

Crookston Inn & Convention Center  
Complimentary hors d’oeuvres and cash bar

Stop by, participate in discussions that are vital to the Crookston community and learn about initiatives that connect our community while gaining understanding of upcoming projects that involve all residents.

**THE CITY OF CROOKSTON**

sponsored by the Crookston Housing & EDA and collaborating partners

[zumn.edu/crookstonconnected](http://zumn.edu/crookstonconnected)

## Public Works

### Order of snow cleaning priority:

1. Emergency routes (once we can keep the emergency routes clear we move on to Main Routes and so on)
2. Main routes
3. Residential
4. Alley ways

### Calendar Parking Policy Reminder

Starting November 14 (when snow is present) through April 1, the Calendar Parking Rules will be in effect. Here's what you need to know:

- Even-Numbered Days (1 AM to 7 AM): No parking on the side of any street with even-numbered addresses.
- Odd-Numbered Days (1 AM to 7 AM): No parking on the side of any street with odd-numbered addresses.

*Please note: Calendar parking does not apply to downtown streets as described in City Code. Make sure to follow these guidelines to avoid citations and to help us keep streets clear for snow removal and emergency access.*

### Snow Removal Tips

1. Clear Sidewalks Adjacent to your Home - Property owners are responsible for clearing snow/ice on sidewalks adjacent to their property within 24 hours
2. Do Not Put Snow on Roadways - Minnesota statutes and City ordinances prohibit plowing, shoveling, blowing, or placing snow on to public roadways
3. Shovel Around Hydrants - Keep a path to and around the hydrants open for fire safety
4. Install Sturdy Mailboxes - Mailboxes should be sturdy enough to withstand snow coming off the end of the plow. If damage occurs due to snow hitting a box, the City is not responsible for repairs. Only when there is direct impact by a snowplow will the City repair/replace mailboxes. Maximum compensation for mailbox repairs is set by the City Council
5. Keep a Clear Area 'Upstream' of your Driveway - By keeping a clear area 'upstream' of your driveway, snow coming off of the plow will be deposited there, rather than in your driveway

### Snow Removal

In a typical snowstorm, the snow crew made up of around 6 people working at night and early in the morning begins plowing and removing snow using various equipment, including snowplow trucks, dump trucks, light trucks, wheel loaders, and skid steers.

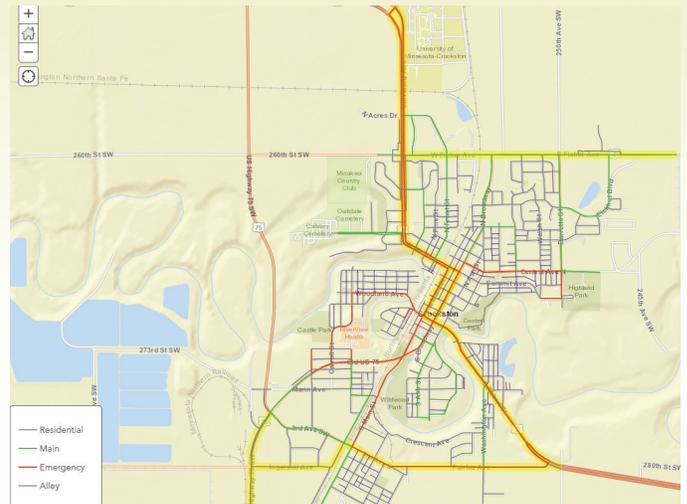
Work starts on emergency routes, priority routes/main routes, and then moves into neighborhoods, cul-de-sacs, alleys, parking lots, and sidewalks/trails.

Streets will be plowed or sanded after accumulations of 3" or more of snow, drifting that causes problems for travel, or icy conditions that seriously affect travel. Please attempt to park vehicles off the roadway during snow events so that the streets may be more efficiently plowed. Streets will be sanded in this order:

1. Intersections with traffic controls such as stop signs and signal lights.
2. Hills and curves. (Generally only controlled intersections and hill areas will be sanded due to limited resources.)

### Snow Emergency Ordinance

- A. The Public Works Director may declare a snow emergency in the City. The emergency shall be declared by 4:00 p.m. and shall take effect later that same evening at 12:00 midnight. The snow emergency shall continue to be in effect for 24 hours



- B. A declaration of extension is made by communicating the same in the manner provided for the initial declaration. Failure to effectively communicate shall not invalidate the extension
- C. Notice of the declaration of a snow emergency shall be given by notifying the local news media; however, the notification shall be a service right only and not a duty on the part of city officials
- D. During a declared snow emergency, it is unlawful to park or leave standing any motor vehicle on the side of any street or alleyway in the City, except as otherwise posted
- E. During a declared snow emergency, any police officer is authorized to have a motor vehicle which is parked in violation of this section removed at the owner's expense.

### Winter Parking

- Residents are urged to help keep streets clean by parking on streets after they have been plowed curb-to-curb
- After heavy snow, wind, or significant icing, the City may declare a snow emergency
- Snow emergencies are declared before 4:00 pm and are effective between midnight and 7:00 am
- During a declared snow emergency, no on-street parking is allowed, and the police department may remove vehicles (at the owner's expense) that are parked in violation of the snow emergency

### Downtown Snow Removal Operations

To maintain safety and accessibility downtown, snow removal will occur when accumulated snow piles create hazardous conditions or when no boulevard is available for snow storage. Snow removal will follow this schedule:

- North-South streets: Cleared from 12 midnight to 8 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays
- East-West streets: Cleared from 12 midnight to 8 AM on Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Saturdays

Please avoid parking on these streets during the designated times to allow for efficient snow removal. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping us keep Crookston safe and clear this winter season!

### Service Line Material Inventory

The City of Crookston has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) through the link below. As of August 27th, 2024, our inventory contains 3 lead, 11 galvanized requiring replacement, 1768 unknown materials, and 1202 non-lead service lines. <https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>



# Crookston Fire Department



## Safe Homes Crookston

Carbon Monoxide / Smoke Survey



Our goal with Safe Homes Survey is to ensure the safety of our senior residents by providing and installing carbon monoxide detector into their homes at no cost to them.

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, tasteless, and invisible gas.

Signs of CO poisoning include headache, nausea, fatigue, vomiting, and disorientation.

### How Do You Qualify?

- 60 years of age or older
- Reside in the city limits of Crookston
- Own the home that you live in (no rentals)

### If You Qualify

Call the Fire Department and request a survey to be done at your home. The firefighter on shift will come to your home and check to see that your detectors are working properly. If for some reason that the detector is not working, we will either install new batteries or a new carbon monoxide detector. The new detector comes with a 10-year sealed battery.

Made possible from a grant by:



**Call today to setup an  
appointment (218) 281-4584**

## Building Department

Contact information for Building Official/Planning & Zoning Administrator Greg Hefta is:

- 124 North Broadway in Crookston, MN 56716
- P: (218) 281-5713 | C: (218) 280-9808
- Email: ghefta@crookston.mn.us

As 2026 approaches, a reminder for renewing Licenses in the City of Crookston. This includes any contractors doing Gas Fitting (GF) or Cement Masonry (CM) work within city limits, who are required to be licensed annually by the City of Crookston under the following requirements:

- Application fee of \$200.00 – both GF & CM
- Certificate of Compliance, MN Workers Compensation Law Form – both GF & CM
- Certificate of Insurance – both GF & CM
- Bond of \$1,000.00 – only CM

License applications can be found online on City of Crookston Website at: <https://www.crookston.mn.us/182/Business-Permits-Licenses>

License applications with all attachments are to be returned to Crookston City Clerk, Ashley Rystad, at City Hall or via email: [arystad@crookston.mn.us](mailto:arystad@crookston.mn.us)

Both cement mason work and gas fitting work will need to have a Residential, Mechanical, or Commercial Permit for planned construction in 2026, along with licensure listed. This will include curbcuts (into streets), driveways/aprons, garage slabs, sidewalks, footings, foundations and furnace or other gas fed mechanical HVAC equipment.

To obtain Permits, online applications can be found on Crookston's city website: <https://www.crookston.mn.us/177/Building-Inspections-Department>

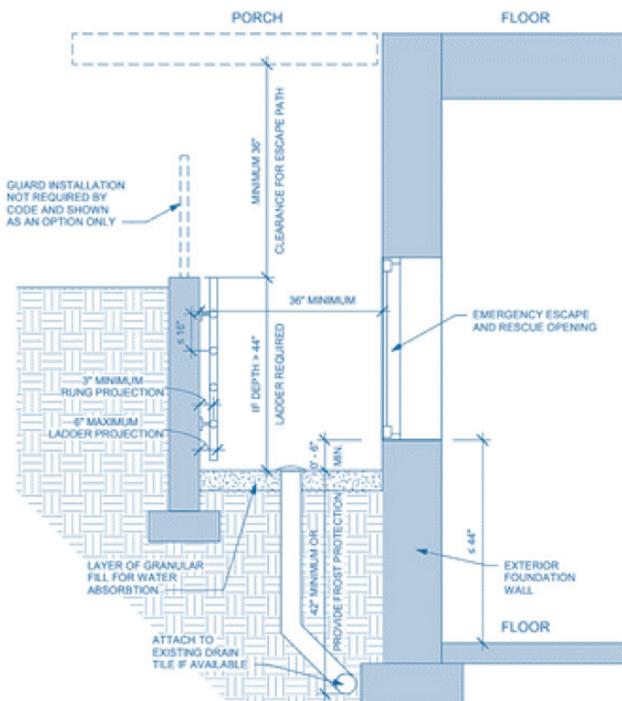
## Emergency escape and rescue openings – Basic MN Code Requirements

Basements, habitable attics and every sleeping room shall have not less than one operable emergency escape and rescue opening. Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, an emergency egress and rescue opening shall be required in each sleeping room, but not be required in adjoining areas of the basement. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall open directly into a public way, or to a yard.

All emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room. Window Minimum opening area. openings shall have a net clear opening of not less than 5.7 square feet. The net clear height of the opening shall be not less than 24 inches and the net clear width shall be not less than 20 inches. Exceptions are grade floor openings or below-grade openings shall have a net clear opening area of not less than 5 square feet.

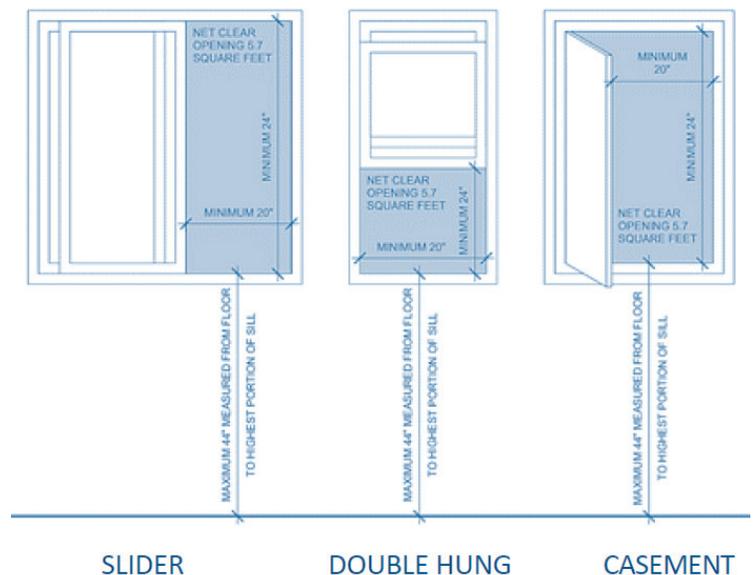
Where a window is provided as the emergency escape and rescue opening, it shall have a sill height of not more than 44 inches above the floor; where the sill height is below grade, it shall be provided with a window well. The horizontal area of the window well shall be not less than 9 square feet, with a horizontal projection and width of not less than 36 inches. The area of the window well shall allow the emergency escape and rescue opening to be fully opened. An exception may be a ladder or steps required shall be permitted to encroach not more than 6 inches into the required dimensions of the window well. Window wells with a vertical depth greater than 44 inches shall be equipped with a ladder or steps usable with the window in the fully open position. Window wells shall be designed for proper drainage by connecting to the building's foundation drainage system.

*This information has been condensed from MN 2020 Residential Code and is not comprehensive. Contact Crookston Building Department for further code requirements.*



Window well section

## Window types and opening requirements



SLIDER

DOUBLE HUNG

CASEMENT



# 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 thousands of 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, a monthly hands-on learning opportunity for youth called Library Learning Lab, 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 Nest on Broadway





**United Way  
of Crookston**

## **Winter 2025-2026**

❄️ **December 3-6, 2025**  
**Holiday Online Auction**

❄️ **January 25-31, 2026**  
**Dine Out Week**

❄️ **January 27, 2026**  
**Grant Applications Due**

❄️ **March 2-4, 2026**  
**Grant Hearings**

❄️ **February 24-March 7, 2026**  
**Golf Simulator Tournament**

❄️ **March 17, 2026**  
**Grant Allocations**





## Polk County Public Health

As winter arrives in Polk County, Polk County Public Health is here to help you and your family stay safe and healthy this season. Cold weather, shorter days, and winter storms can create unique challenges. With practical tips and resources, we're ready to support your well-being and keep you prepared for whatever winter brings. Here's how you and your family can stay healthy, safe, and resilient this season:

### Caring for Your Mental Health This Winter

Winter can be beautiful, but shorter days and cold weather can affect our mood and energy. Simple activities like walking, stretching, or playing in the snow can boost your mood and keep your body moving. Connecting with friends, family, or neighbors, even through a quick phone call or text, can help you feel less alone. Take time for self-care, whether it's a warm cup of tea, a quiet moment, or a few deep breaths. If you're struggling, don't hesitate to reach out—call or text 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, for immediate help and resources.

### Indoor Winter Safety:

Winter means more time indoors, and that makes indoor safety more important than ever. Cold weather can lead to silent risks indoors, like poor air quality and dangerous gases.

Here are three things to watch for this season:

- **Carbon Monoxide:** Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced by burning fuel in appliances or vehicles. In high amounts, it can be deadly. Use a CO detector, check its batteries regularly, and ensure heating systems are well-maintained.
- **Radon:** Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that comes from soil and can build up in your home during winter when ventilation

is reduced. Long-term radon exposure can harm your lungs and may lead to lung cancer. Testing is the only way to detect radon.

**Polk County Public Health (PCPH) offers free radon test kits at our East Grand Forks, Crookston, and McIntosh offices.**

- **Mold and Moisture:** Mold grows when snow or humidity increases moisture levels indoors. It can damage your home and worsen allergies or breathing problems. Keep indoor spaces dry, monitor humidity, and ensure proper ventilation.

### Outdoor Winter Safety:

Shoveling snow is a common winter task, but it can be riskier than it seems. Cold temperatures, heavy snow, and slippery surfaces put you at risk for injuries, falls, and even heart problems. Stay safe by warming up first, lifting with your legs instead of your back, and taking frequent breaks. Dress in layers, wear waterproof gloves, and choose boots with good traction. Clear snow in small sections instead of waiting for it to pile up. A little preparation and caution can make snow removal safer, keeping your winter fun.

### Prevent Respiratory Illnesses This Winter

Winter increases the risk of flu, RSV, and COVID. Protect yourself and others by getting vaccinated, washing your hands often, covering coughs and sneezes, and avoiding touching your face. Feeling sick? Stay home to rest and prevent spreading illness. Small habits like these help keep you, your family, and the community healthy all season long.





## Care and Share Crookston

### Together, We Rise: A Season of Gratitude and Growth

As we move through this season of giving, it has been deeply moving to witness how our community has truly rallied around our neighbors. No one should have to go without food, and thanks to your generosity, we have been able to meet the needs

of those facing food insecurity. Whether you donated canned goods, contributed financially, or volunteered your time, each act of kindness has made a difference.

The value of rallying together goes beyond filling shelves; it is about holding grace and compassion for those experiencing hardship. Food insecurity can affect anyone, and our shared efforts remind us that community care is one of the most powerful ways to offer hope.

### A Major Milestone: Funding Secured for the New Hope Food Shelf Freezer:

We are thrilled to share that, with the incredible help of Linda Morgan and the Lions Club, we have secured full grant funding to replace the New Hope Food Shelf freezer! This long-needed replacement is essential for our continued ability to safely store perishable items and distribute fresh, nutritious food to families and individuals in need.

The new freezer represents longevity and stability for our Food Shelf operations, it means fewer interruptions, less waste, and more consistent service for those who depend on us. Installation is underway, and we expect it to be completed and fully operational by the end of November.

This project is a tangible example of what happens when generosity and community partnership come together.

### Looking Ahead: Expanding Health and Recovery Support:

As we look to the future, we are excited to share our plans to introduce an on-site nurse at Care and Share. This nurse will work in collaboration with our partners at Riverview Recovery to address not only drug and alcohol addiction but also the growing challenges of opioid and prescription drug abuse.

Having a trained nurse in medication management and substance abuse support will mean so much for our shelter guests, ensuring more consistent care, immediate medical guidance, and compassionate health support. For our staff, it will provide vital collaboration and professional backing as they serve on the front lines of care. And for our partnership with Riverview Recovery, it will deepen our shared mission of healing and recovery in our community.

### Building Sustainable Partnerships:

In the months ahead, we are also focusing on expanding our outreach to local businesses and organizations to strengthen financial stability and ensure consistent revenue. With the support of the eight communities we serve, we can create a network of ongoing partnerships that sustains our mission year-round.

Growth can be uncomfortable, it asks us to stretch, to change, and to imagine new ways of doing things. But without change, there is no progress. Every step forward brings us closer to a stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient Care and Share community.

### Creating Access for All:

We are also proud to be moving toward full ADA accessibility within our facilities. Soon, individuals with physical disabilities will be able to access all areas of our buildings and services with

ease and dignity. This is more than a construction project, it's a commitment to equity, inclusion, and respect for every person who comes through the doors.

### A Reflection of Gratitude and Hope:

This season reminds us that growth is grace in motion, it may challenge us, but it also transforms us. Every new roof, every meal served, every partnership formed, and every hand extended in support tells a story of a community that refuses to stand still in the face of need.

Thank you for being part of that story. Together, we are building not just stronger buildings, but stronger hearts, stronger futures, and stronger community.

With gratitude,  
Carolina Diaz, Executive Director  
Care and Share of Crookston, Inc.

### Shelter Renovations Update from Jane Freeman, Renovations Grant Manager

Thanks to the generous support of the State of Minnesota, Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. has been able to make vital upgrades to our facilities. As you can imagine, maintaining an old Catholic school and rectory takes considerable effort, especially when our mission is to provide safe, comfortable shelter for those in need throughout the year, including our long, cold winters. The grant funds we received were designated for accessibility improvements and energy efficiency upgrades. While even significant funds can only stretch so far when working with older buildings, we are proud of the thoughtful choices we've made to ensure the greatest impact and long-term sustainability.

### Hope Center (Formerly the Old Rectory):

The building now known as the Hope Center, home to families with children, received much-needed updates beginning with a new, energy-efficient roof. One of our largest investments was the installation of a new boiler system, replacing years of costly patchwork repairs. Families can now count on consistent heat through many winters ahead. We also replaced drafty exterior doors, and next on our renovation list are energy-efficient windows that will further improve comfort and reduce heating costs.

### Main Care and Share Building:

Our main building, which houses single men and women in need of shelter, as well as our administrative offices, kitchen, dining area, and Food Shelf, has also undergone major improvements. A new roof now protects the structure, and one of the most visible and exciting additions is our new elevator, which will make all areas of the facility accessible to guests with physical disabilities.

Less visible, but just as important, are the electrical system upgrades and the installation of a new boiler. Like at the Hope Center, our old system required frequent repairs and left residents and staff coping with cold conditions each year. The new boiler and elevator installations are expected to be fully completed within the next two to three months.

Additionally, the building's old, inefficient water heater, which frequently failed, has been replaced, ensuring a reliable supply of hot water for showers, laundry, and meal preparation.

### Looking Ahead:

We believe these renovations not only meet the state's grant requirements but also embody the spirit and purpose of the funding, strengthening the infrastructure that supports our mission. We are deeply grateful to the State of Minnesota for recognizing the importance of investing not just in operations, but in the facilities that make our work possible.

These improvements will ensure that Care and Share of Crookston continues to provide a safe, warm, and welcoming space for all who come to our doors.

With gratitude,  
Jane Freeman, Renovations Grant Manager  
Care and Share of Crookston, Inc.



# RIVERVIEW HEALTH

Illness doesn't follow a 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday schedule. That's why RiverView Health offers extended weekday and weekend hours at its Crookston Clinic.

Sick on the weekend? You don't have to wait for Monday; RiverView Clinic - Crookston is open from 9 am to 1 pm on the weekends. Feeling under the weather but can't get away during the school or workday? RiverView Clinic – Crookston is open from 7 am to 7 pm during the week. RiverView's Laboratory and Diagnostic Imaging

Departments are available 24 hours a day should you need lab work or a scan.

If you feel like there aren't enough hours in a day to get everything done, don't worry. We've added hours to our day to help keep you and your family healthy.

To schedule an appointment at RiverView Clinic – Crookston, call 281.9595



## DCDP

With a focus on movement and activity for all ages the Crookston Area Community Fund invites you to explore the Crookston Sports Center. The CSC is open M-F 6am to (needs an edit here for days and times as it is not clear to me in the Fun Finder)

Walking/running membership annual fee \$30 or \$25 for 65 years and older. The walking path has a newly installed surface which offers improved traction and durability. Each lap is 1/4 mile, an excellent way to get your steps in.

The walking path also features two interactive play areas for younger children.





**Get Kids Outdoors**

[www.getkidsoutdoorsmn.org](http://www.getkidsoutdoorsmn.org)

Coming up we will be placing our ice fishing house on the Red Lake River down at Central Park. We will be monitoring the ice quality and put the house out when it is safe to do so. Approx 12" is needed. The fish house is intended for kids to experience ice fishing with their parents. The house can accommodate up to 6 people. Kids must have an adult with them. Just like last year, families must reserve the house by calling Ace Hardware in Crookston. On the reserved date/time parents need to go to Ace to get a key and sign a liability waiver. Once inside the warm fish house, all fishing equipment is provided along with bait. While fishing we have placed outdoor educational material for kids to read and learn about ice safety, Mn fish species, Mn invasive species, trees of Mn and more.

All this is provided at no charge to the families. Last year families from as far away as 60 miles took advantage of the opportunity. Jan 31st 2026 is slated for our 3rd Annual Ice Fishing Day at an area lake (TBD). Watch for details on our webpage and Get Kids Outdoors FB site. This is designed for kids 8-15. Bus transportation will be provided, fishing equipment will be provided, lunch will be served, all at no charge to every youngster. Get ready for a fun day of fishing. We will once again ask the community for volunteers. Just wear appropriate outdoor clothing.




**Toys for Tots**

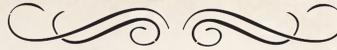
Starting Monday, November 24th, the City of Crookston will have a sign-up sheet located in City Hall for recipients of Toys for Tots. Names will be taken through Thursday, December 19th.

Recipients must be 14 years of age or younger and must live in city limits. All presents will be wrapped and delivered the morning of Tuesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve) between 8am - 12pm. Donations are also accepted.

To make a donation, stop by City Hall or mail your donation to Crookston Water Department at 124 North Broadway, Crookston, MN 56716.

## 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 Winter Wonderland

**December 11th**

- 4:00pm – 6:00pm
- Downtown Crookston
- Come downtown and visit participating businesses to fill your stockings with tasty treats. Plus, a few more fun surprises along the way such as cookie decorating, writing letters to Santa, hot chocolate and more!
- Plus, free Christmas Movie at The Grand Theatre at 6:30pm sponsored by Best Used Trucks



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**CROOKSTON**

### UMC Free Curling League

- January 14th – February 11th
- Wednesdays at the Crookston Sports Center
- Still accepting teams for the 7:30pm – 9:00pm time slot!
- Register at [z.umn.edu/2026curling](http://z.umn.edu/2026curling)

### Holiday Online Auction

- December 3rd – 6th
- Mark your calendar and join United Way of Crookston for their annual holiday online auction! Bookmark the site and keep checking back, we're adding items all the time!

### Dine Out Week

- January 25th – 31st
- Dine-Out Week serves as a fundraiser for the United Way, and all community members have to do to support the cause by going out and eating at their favorite restaurant. Each establishment will donate by percentage of revenue throughout the week, or a predetermined amount will be distributed to the United Way, depending on the business. For those who partake in Dine-Out Week, there will be no additional charge for the meals that are purchased. The donations given to the United Way are through the generosity of each business.

### Golf Simulator Tournament

- February 24th – March 7th

### Ice Buster Daze Fishing Derby

- February 2026
- This annual fishing tournament is held on the Red Lake River in Crookston's Central Park and features snowmobile radar runs, bikini radar run for charity, prizes and dinner afterward at the Crookston Eagles Club.
- For more information go to [Season's - Ice Buster Daze Facebook page](#)

### Dreams on Ice Figure Skating Show

- March 7th & 8th
- Crookston Sports Center
- This well-choreographed program features an estimated 100 skaters ages 2-18. With a different theme each year, this event features the talent of our local youth and provides an affordable few hours of entertainment for the entire family.

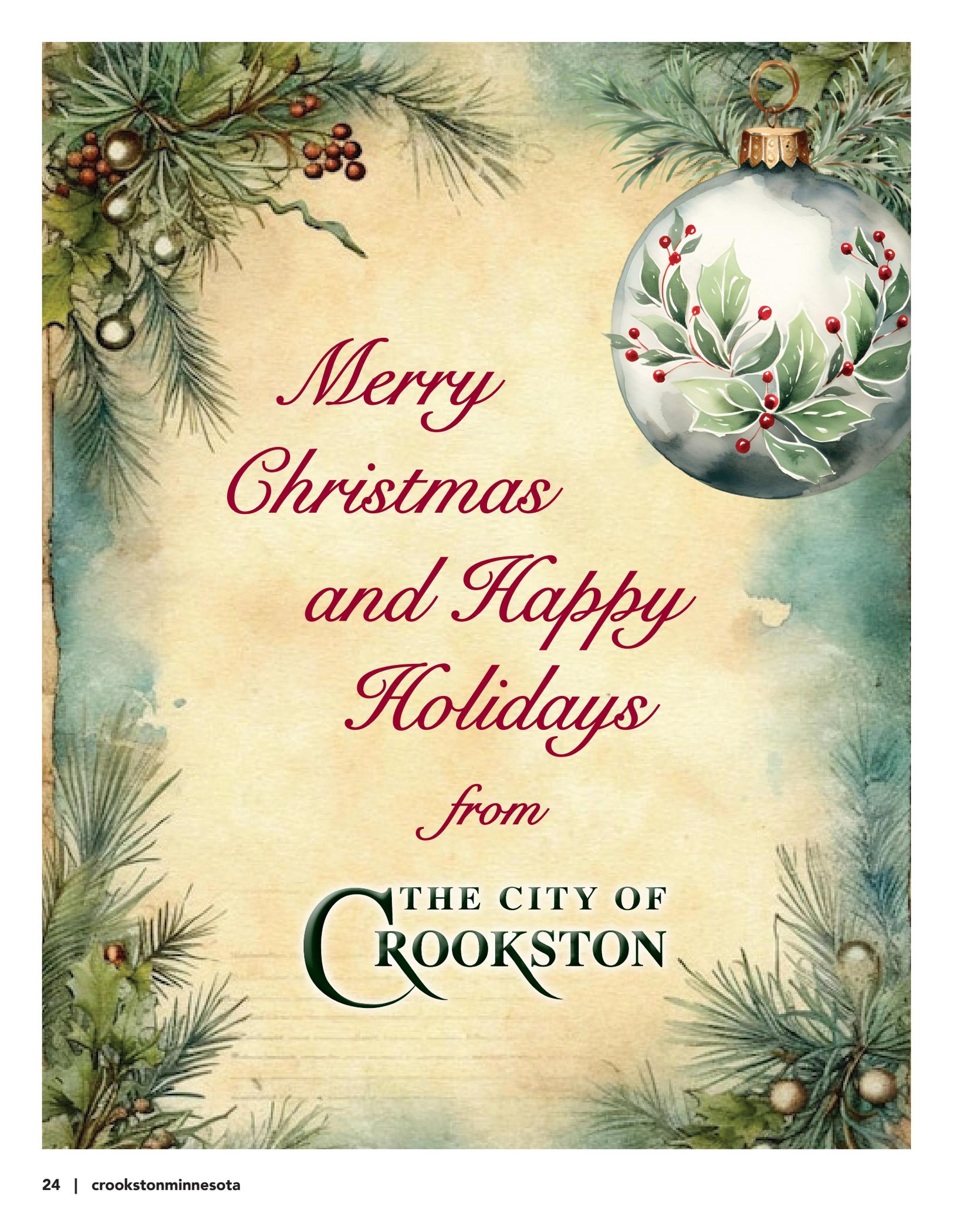
### 33rd Annual CYBA Tournament

- March 20th & 21st, 2026
- This ever-growing event brings 3,000 people to Crookston each year. The 126-team tournament features boys and girls from 3rd grade to 8th grade competing on 10 courts in 5 different locations throughout Crookston
- Register at [crookstonbasketball.com](http://crookstonbasketball.com)

**United Way of Crookston**  
**Winter 2025-2026**

* December 3-6, 2025 Holiday Online Auction	* January 25-31, 2026 Dine Out Week
* January 27, 2026 Grant Applications Due	* March 2-4, 2026 Grant Hearings
* February 24-March 7, 2026 Golf Simulator Tournament	* March 17, 2026 Grant Allocations





*Merry  
Christmas  
and Happy  
Holidays  
from*

**THE CITY OF  
CROOKSTON**