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# LAKE CRYSTAL CRYSTAL CLEAR NEWS

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January 2026

## Dates to Remember

January 19th–Martin Luther King Day

City Offices Closed

January 30th–Utility Bills Due

February 16th–Presidents Day

City Offices Closed

### City Information:

Phone: 507-726-2538

Website: [www.lakecrystalmn.org](http://www.lakecrystalmn.org)

Hours: M-F 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### After Hours Emergency#:

507-726-2260 wait for the answering  
service to pick up

### MVAC Energy Assistance

507-345-6822

[eap@mnvac.org](mailto:eap@mnvac.org)

## Energy Conservation Tips:

**Energy Efficiency in Cold Weather:** Winter bills can add up, but there are simple ways to keep costs down. Weatherproof your windows and doors, use a programmable thermostat to control heating, and add extra insulation to keep your home cozy and energy-efficient this winter.

**Water Conservation During the Winter:** Winter can be a great time to think about water conservation! Be mindful of water use during extreme cold weather and always check your plumbing for any leaks that might be hard to spot in the winter months. A small drip can waste a lot of water and lead to higher bills.

**Winter Weather Tips for Your Utilities:** With the cold of winter upon us, now is the perfect time to remind everyone to keep their water meters and utility access points clear of snow and ice. This helps prevent damage and ensures we can get to them quickly if needed. If you suspect frozen pipes or notice water main breaks, please report them to us right away.

## CIP REBATES

NEW CIP REBATE FORMS COMING END OF JANUARY!  
Please check out the new forms and appliances that qualify for rebates. Remember appliances must be “ENERGY STAR” to qualify. Forms available at City Hall or on our website at <https://www.lakecrystalmn.org/rebate-forms>

HELLO  
2026

## Snow & Ice Removal Reminder

Property owners and occupants are responsible for clearing snow and ice from sidewalks in front of or next to their property within 24 hours after a storm ends. If sidewalks are not cleared within that time, the city may remove the snow and ice and bill the property owner for the cost.

### Winter Parking Rules

#### City Code Chapter 71: Use of Highways, Streets, and the Like

#### SECTION 12: WINTER PARKING

It is unlawful to park or leave a vehicle standing on any street or right-of-way between the hours of midnight – 10:00 a.m. after a snowfall of two (2) or more inches, or when blowing or drifting snow warrants snow plowing. The City of Lake Crystal will make an announcement via social media (Facebook Page) when a “**Snow Emergency**” is declared.

Any police officer is authorized to have a motor vehicle that is parked in violation of this section removed at the owner’s expense. No vehicle will be released until all towing charges and impound fees have been paid in full. The City of Lake Crystal does not assume any responsibility for any damage done during towing or impounding of said vehicle.

The City Street & Maintenance Department, in cooperation with the Lake Crystal Police Department, asks for Lake Crystal residents to please park vehicles off the streets when 2 inches or more snow is forecast

**FEES: Towing Fee: \$175.00, \$50 per day over one day of storage.**

Towing fee payable to “**Maloney Enterprises**” before your vehicle will be released. To retrieve your vehicle, call 507-642-3543.

**Parking Ticket: \$50.00**

Please allow 10 days from the date the citation was issued before making payment (online, phone, or regular mail).

Fine Info Only: 507-304-4666 (back of citation)

Courthouse Office: 507-304-4650 (back of citation)

Other options (Online, phone, or regular mail):

[www.mncourts.gov](http://www.mncourts.gov) 1-800-657-3611 651-281-3219 (Metro)

**Mail and make checks payable to:**

MN Court Payment Center, PO Box 898, Willmar, MN 56201

**Procedure:** After a snowfall of two (2) or more inches, or when blowing or drifting snow warrants snow plowing, Lake Crystal Police Officers will carry out the following procedure in the event vehicles are still parked on municipal roadways within the City of Lake Crystal, while City Street & Maintenance Department employees have begun plowing snow:

**1<sup>st</sup> Offense: Written Warning 2<sup>nd</sup> Offense: Ordinance Violation Citation 3<sup>rd</sup> Offense: Ordinance Violation Citation and**

PLEASE HELP: If you see a fire hydrant buried in snow, please consider shoveling it out for the safety of you and your neighbors.

**CITY OF LAKE CRYSTAL  
COMPOST SITE**

**CLOSED  
FOR THE YEAR**

**REOPENING IN  
APRIL 2026**