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City of Crystal Lake

Press Release

Crystal Lake tops list of *Best Small Cities in America*

Crystal Lake –The City has been named the 10th *Best Small City in America* by WalletHub, a personal and small business finance advisory group. Rankings for this honor correspond to twenty-two different criteria, measuring attributes from the quality of life and cost of living to the number of restaurants per capita. Crystal Lake's education and health scores topped the scales for school system quality and the availability of medical services.

"We are very honored by this recognition," said Crystal Lake Mayor Aaron Shepley. "The ranking confirms what Crystal Lake residents already know – Crystal Lake is a great place to live, work and play." Mayor Shepley applauded Crystal Lake's school districts, park district, Downtown Crystal Lake and Chamber of Commerce for, "…working together on behalf of the community. This ranking is recognition of the community's sense of pride."

The City's positive characteristics are extensive, but most notable is Crystal Lake's attention to ensuring public safety. Crime rates are low, and Crystal Lake is rated within the top 9% in the country for fire suppression services to its residents and businesses.

Residents enjoy the benefit of these quality government services at one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the region.

Crystal Lake schools are the foundation of the community's significance. There are ten elementary schools and three high schools in Crystal Lake. All three of Crystal Lake's high schools rank in the top 25% of public high schools in the state of Illinois. Crystal Lake High School District 155 is also one of only 500 school districts in the United States and Canada named to the Advanced Placement District Honor Roll, and 93% of students continue their education beyond high school.

With over one thousand acres of dedicated parks and open space, Crystal Lake residents and visitors enjoy a variety of outdoor, recreational amenities.

The City's recent investment in the Three Oaks Recreation Area provides swimming, hiking, fishing, and a magnificent beach within a captivating environment with pristine water quality. The Quarry Park & Grille is the latest enhancement to the park and features a 40-acre wakeboard amenity that will open in 2016. Wakeboarding combines water skiing and surfing techniques utilizing an above-ground cable network.

Having been designated a Premier Illinois Main Street Community, Downtown Crystal Lake and the City's Main Street program has restored, revitalized and sustained the success of the City's historic downtown district. An eclectic mix of independent retailers and restaurants occupy over 95% of the commercial space available downtown. Downtown Crystal Lake has earned numerous honors, including the Governor's hometown award for downtown revitalization, as well as the Best of the Fox recognition for the 'best downtown shopping district' and 'best farmer's market'.

In addition to being a great place to live and raise a family, Crystal Lake hosts a robust business community that has grown in recent years. Since 2011, businesses have occupied over 2 million square feet of commercial space in Crystal Lake, bringing with, over 2,000 jobs. Overall, Crystal Lake businesses provide nearly 30,000 jobs through a strong retail, office, and industrial base. Crystal Lake is also home to numerous manufacturing companies, the largest of which include Rita Corporation, Knaack Manufacturing, and Covidien-Medtronic. The City is also proud to be home to the North American headquarters for AptarGroup, the global leader in product dispensing systems.

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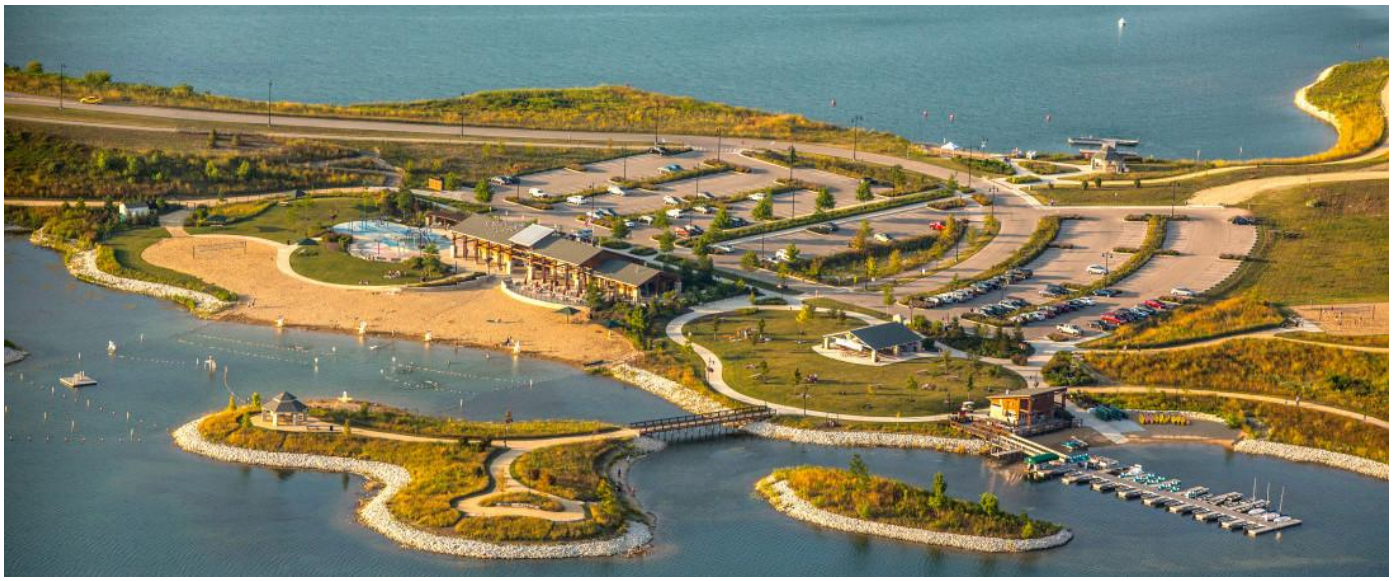
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Crystal Lake-City Hall



Historic Dole Mansion



Three Oaks Recreation Area





Crystal Lake's Namesake Beach





Downtown Crystal Lake





Downtown Crystal Lake Metra Station



Raue Center for the Arts-Downtown Crystal Lake