City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



PARDON OUR DUST: MAIN STREET AND CRYSTAL LAKE AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Please watch for delays and detours starting in March 2020 through November 2020 as improvements get underway.



The project includes:

- Installation of permanent traffic signals.
- Main Street, south of the intersection, will be widened to include two dedicated through lanes and dedicated right and left turn lanes.
- Crystal Lake Avenue, east of the intersection, will be widened to include turn lanes.
- Pavement resurfacing
- Water main upgrades
- Installation of planters and parkway trees at the southwest corner of the intersection.

For up-to-date project information, visit www.crystallake.org, click "Our Community", then "Main Street and Crystal Lake Avenue Intersection".

Inside:

Restaurant **Row**

New **Businesses**

Electronics **Collection**

VISIT RESTAURANT ROW: VIRGINIA STREET CORRIDOR

Come experience upscale dining close to home along our very own restaurant row! This corridor brings flavors and specialties from around the world close to home - including steaks, seafood, pork chops, wild game, unique small plates, and exquisite cocktails. Check out the upscale dining options now available along the Virginia Street Corridor.

Mookie's Steak & Seafood
446 W. Virginia Street
Step into a retro-modern restaurant and lounge to enjoy chops, seafood, pasta dishes, and steaks flamed tableside.

Vine and Plate Wine Bar
414 W. Virginia Street
Offers a fun social atmosphere with globally inspired wine and small plates

1776 Restaurant
397 W. Virginia Street
A farm to table restaurant with a focus on wild game and gluten-free options plus tapas and an extensive wine list. The food offered is locally sourced, and created fresh from scratch daily.

815 Chop House
394 W. Virginia Street
The perfect gathering place for anyone looking for a relaxed, fun environment to socialize and enjoy a cocktail or mouthwatering selection of burgers, steaks, and pork chops. Come on Friday and enjoy a traditional fish fry.



CRYSTAL LAKE CONTINUES TO BLOOM WITH NEW BUSINESSES

Just 4 You Treats
256 N. Oak Street, Unit B
Specializes in producing custom made baked goods, including designer sugar cookies, gourmet cupcakes, and cakes.

Fork It Foods
256 N. Oak Street, Unit B
Meals to-go along with contemporary catering of unique and artistic charcuterie boards.

Keystone Surfaces
350 W. Terra Cotta Avenue
An eco-friendly fabricator of stone countertops and surfaces with a new showroom and warehouse.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crime STOPPERS

Crystal Lake Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards of up to $1000 for information leading to the arrest and filing of criminal charges against offenders.

Let's continue to help keep Crystal Lake a Good Place to Live and Work. Crime Stoppers 1-800-762-STOP (7867). Caller ID is not used.



Follow the McHenry County Suicide Prevention Task Force Facebook page, which tries to raise awareness of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, provide education, implement prevention programs, and provide support to those affected by suicide loss within McHenry County.

Protect Yourself Against Scams

Tech Support Fraudsters may call or use the internet to inform you of a non-existent computer problem, telling you they have detected a virus or that hackers are attempting to get into your computer. This is done in several ways.

People claiming to be "tech support" ask you to grant them remote access to your computer. Another tactic is diagnosing a non-existent problem, and asking you to pay a large amount of money to fix it. Perpetrators may also offer a refund and claim they placed the refund into your bank account but gave you too much money. Finally, another scam urges you to send payments to scammers often utilizing gift cards.

Some scam warning signs include:

- Unsolicited phone calls or emails from a brand name company such as Microsoft or Apple.
- Being asked to pay tech support with a gift card or wire transfer.
- Messages urging you to immediately call a toll-free number or click a link for technical support.

Special Thanks

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS

In 2019, the Crystal Lake Police Department raised nearly $10,000 to benefit Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. We thank all of you for your support and generosity.

This year we are excited to get back into it! Mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- Friday, May 15, 2020 - Dunkin' Donuts Cop on a Rooftop
- Sunday, June 7, 2020 - Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Friday, July 31, 2020 - Texas Roadhouse Benefit Lunch
- Date to be Determined - Trivia Night

Make sure to "like" us on Facebook to stay informed on specific dates and details. Event information is also shared through media releases and monthly City Newsletters.

If you are interested in knowing how you can participate, contact Officer Sal Alfano at salfano@crystallake.org.

Coffee with the Chief, Learn about Common Scams

Coffee with the Chief, Learn about Common Scams, is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Crystal Lake Police Department, 100 W. Woodstock Street.

Seating is limited. Please R.S.V.P. to Officer Sal Alfano via email at salfano@crystallake.org or by phone at (815) 444-5956.

Officer Sal Alfano - (815) 444-5956 or by email at salfano@crystallake.org

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES

On Sunday, March 8, 2020, it will be time to turn your clocks ahead one hour. This is a great time to ensure your smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are working.

Make it a tradition that when you change your clocks for Daylight Saving Time, to also change your smoke and CO detector batteries. Working detectors on every level of your home can buy your family valuable time to escape from a fire or a dangerous level of carbon monoxide.

Smoke detectors save lives! Smoke detectors that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke detectors to give you time to get out.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 60% of fire related deaths occur in homes with non-working smoke detectors or no smoke detectors.

Additional Safety Tips:



- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke detectors in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install detectors on every level of the home.
- Replace your detectors if they are 10 years or older.
- Create an escape plan and meeting place with your family and practice the plan with all family members.

Information provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

SPRING CLEANING?
DON'T FORGET YOUR DRYER VENT!

Did you know, you are at higher risk of having a clothes dryer fire if you do not clean your lint filter and dryer vents?

Below are some safety tips to help prevent a clothes dryer fire in your home:

- Have your dryer serviced/installed by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter and be sure to clean the lint filter before and after each cycle.
- Don't forget to clean the back of the dryer where lint can build up.
- Check the venting system behind the dryer to make sure it is not crushed, damaged or restricted.
- Make sure the outdoor vent covering is open when the dryer is operating.

Information provided by www.usfa.fema.gov

SHARPS DISPOSAL
IN ILLINOIS

Looking to dispose of used medical sharps? See below for Illinois guidelines:

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends placing used needles and other sharps immediately into FDA-cleared sharps containers. These containers are typically available through pharmacies, medical supply companies, and online.



- If you are unable to use an FDA-cleared sharps container, you may use a strong, re-sealable plastic container such as a laundry detergent bottle. (Soda bottles, water bottles, milk cartons, etc. are NOT strong plastics for the disposal of sharps.)
- Once the container is ¾ full, seal the lid strongly with duct tape, label DO NOT RECYCLE and place in the household trash.

For more information or to find disposal locations, visit www.safeneedledisposal.org/states/illinois

A COLLECTION OF PEONIES

BY DIANA KENNEY

Did you know...Crystal Lake was once home to the largest collection of peonies in the world? In the mid 1920s, the farm of Julius Van Steen was home to over 100,000 peony plants, representing 1,400 varieties of peonies--more than half the known varieties in existence. How did this come to be? Read on...

Julius Van Steen was born April 2, 1877 in Appleton, Wisconsin. He met and married Catherine Whittemore at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The couple had one daughter, Viola. From Wisconsin, the Van Steen family moved to Chicago. While living in Chicago, Julius earned a living as a bookkeeper, but his passion was flowers – specifically peonies. Julius devoted much of his spare time to learning as much as he could about the history and cultivation of peonies.

In 1922, United States Congressman James R. Mann died suddenly from pneumonia.



The Raue family's beautiful blooms were captured in this painting by Crystal Lake artist, Mary Philp Lowell. The painting still hangs in the front parlor of the Raue House, which is now the office of Downtown Crystal Lake/Main Street.

Mann had been a member of the House of Representatives for 25 years, representing Illinois' 2nd District, which centers around the southeast side of Chicago. At the time of his death, James R. Mann owned a large collection of peonies. His widow inherited the plants, but had no interest in keeping them. Julius Van Steen seized the opportunity to follow his lifelong dream to become a peony cultivator. He purchased a large parcel of land in McHenry County, about ½ mile north of Crystal Lake, near the intersection of today's Route 14 & Route 176 (Flowerwood corner). He then purchased the entire collection of James R. Mann's peonies from the widow.

Julius made arrangements to move the Mann peonies to his farm near Crystal Lake. It took nearly three years to move all of the plants, as the land in Crystal Lake needed to be prepared for the plants, and peonies have a short transplant time (primarily in September).

By June, 1926 Julius Van Steen was ready to showcase his massive collection of peonies while they were in full bloom. Thousands of visitors flocked to Crystal Lake to view the spectacular sight of 100,000 blooming plants! Van Steen spent time with his visitors, providing information about how to grow peonies. According to Van Steen, the peony plant requires little attention. Cuttings from existing plants should be planted in the fall. The plants will blossom the second year, and continue to mature and bloom year after year. Van Steen's business profited from the sale of plant cuttings to the general public.

Apparently, Van Steen's enthusiasm for peonies was contagious. Members of the Crystal Lake Garden Club formed a separate chapter devoted entirely to peonies. Prominent Crystal Lake names such as Kellogg, Dolle, and Pomeroy were associated with the Peony Chapter. Newspaper articles reveal that highlights of some chapter meetings included a visit from Julius Van Steen, who would give directions to the ladies on how (and when) to plant peonies. Properly planted, a peony could live for 75 to 100 years.

The longevity of peony plants is apparent at the Raue House on Crystal Lake Avenue. The gardens in the back yard are filled with dozens of peony plants that have been there for decades. Each June, the plants fill the yard with beautiful blooms of various colors including white, pink, and very dark pink. It is most likely the Raue family peonies were started with cuttings from Van Steen's collection.



Backyard peonies at Raue House

Julius Van Steen continued growing and showing his prize peonies until 1946, when he died of a heart attack. His final minutes of life were in a greenhouse, tending flowers.

About the Author: Diana Kenney is Executive Director of Downtown Crystal Lake/Main Street, is an appointed member of the City of Crystal Lake's Historic Preservation Commission, and is President of the Crystal Lake Historical Society.

FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING Q&A

How many fire hydrants are in the City of Crystal Lake?
There are over 3,000 fire hydrants in the City, and the Water & Sewer Division flushes out each hydrant, and the attached underground pipes, annually during the Spring.

Why are hydrants flushed every year?
There are two main reasons fire hydrants are flushed every year. First and foremost, to ensure hydrants are operating properly and there is sufficient water flow and pressure for the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department if needed. Second, is to flush naturally occurring sediment out of underground pipes connected to fire hydrants.

During hydrant flushing will I see any changes to my water service?
During flushing, water may become temporarily discolored due to material being removed from water mains. The water is safe to drink, but may stain clothes washed during flushing. Please limit washing laundry during this time, but if this is not possible, the City offers Rover, a chemical that can be used as a cleanser in laundry to remove iron stains, free of charge.

How is a fire hydrant is activated? Where is the water coming from?
Each fire hydrant you see is connected to an underground pipe carrying water. It is the same water coming into your home or business. A hydrant wrench is used to open a "port" where the water comes out, similar to the faucet in your home. The same wrench is used to turn the "operating nut" located on the top of the hydrant. The operating nut allows water to come up the barrel and flow out of the openings, similar to your faucet's hot and cold knobs.

How does the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department use a hydrant to fight a fire?
Water comes out of a fire hydrant at the same pressure you experience in your home. However, firefighters require adequate pressure and high volume to fight fires. In order to have enough volume, firefighters will open the large cover and connect a hose from the hydrant to their fire engine. The fire engine contains a pump, increasing water pressure. The firefighters then connect smaller hoses to the engine which are used to actually fight a fire.

If a car were to strike a hydrant, would the water really "gush out" like it does in the movies?
Normally, no. As long as a hydrant is off, water should not "gush out" if struck. All fire hydrants you see around the City are "dry barrel hydrants" which means there is no water sitting in the upper portion of the hydrant when it is turned off. The valve controlling the flow of water is actually below ground and there is a long stem connecting the valve to the operating nut. Near the base of that valve are weep holes. When the operating nut is used to turn the hydrant off, it opens those weep holes and allows the water to drain out of the hydrant and the stem. Incidentally, this is also a very important mechanism to avoid water freezing in the hydrant during colder months.



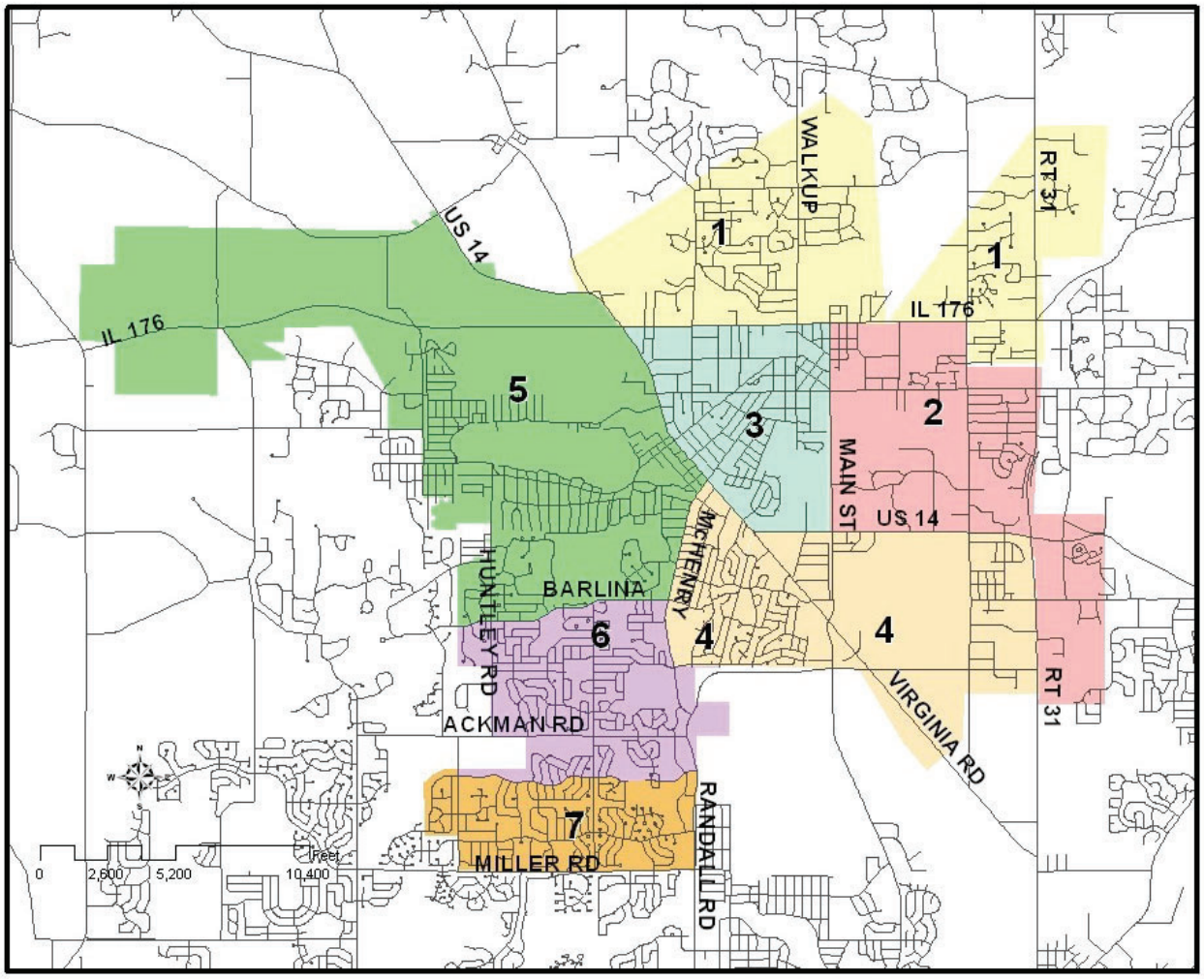
Fire hydrant flushing by City of Crystal Lake Water & Sewer Division

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

The City of Crystal Lake congratulates the following businesses on their anniversaries.

60th Anniversary
Crystal Lake Travel
13 Crystal Lake Plaza

40th Anniversary
Neis Insurance
45 N. Virginia Road



SPRING 2020 HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE*

SECTION 1 – MARCH 23RD – MARCH 27TH
North of Route 176 and East of Route 14
East of Terra Cotta Road and North of Crystal Lake Avenue

SECTION 2 – MARCH 30TH – APRIL 3RD
South of Route 176 to Route 14
East of Main Street to Route 31 (South of Crystal Lake Ave)
East of Route 31 and South of Route 14 to Walmart

SECTION 3 – APRIL 6TH – APRIL 10TH
South of Route 176 to Route 14
East of Route 14 to Main Street

SECTION 4 – APRIL 13TH – APRIL 17TH
South of Route 14, East of McHenry Avenue to Route 31

SECTION 5 – APRIL 20TH – APRIL 24TH
West of Route 14 & McHenry Avenue North
of Barlina Road

SECTION 6 – APRIL 27TH – MAY 1ST
South of Barlina Road to Alexandra Boulevard
West of McHenry Avenue and West of Randall Road

SECTION 7 – MAY 4TH – MAY 8TH
South of Alexandra Boulevard to Miller Road
West of Randall Road

*Subject to weather conditions

FLOODING

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

The City of Crystal Lake provides information to residents to help them determine if their property is at a higher risk of flooding. Information can be obtained by viewing the FEMA floodplain maps online. Maps are also available for viewing at the Community Development counter in City Hall along with other flood-related information. Links to these maps can also be found on the Engineering Division website www.crystallake.org. Contact the Engineering Division at (815) 356-3605 for further assistance. City staff is happy to assist residents in reading these maps and locating individual properties. City staff is also available to provide flood protection assistance over the phone or by visiting a property.

FLOOD SAFETY

During heavy rains or flash floods, the following general guidelines can help protect you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through standing water or a flooded area. Do not drive around barriers, as hidden flooding dangers are likely to be present beyond sight of the initial warning signage.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive. As little as six inches of water can knock a person off their feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is danger of flooding, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical current can travel through water. Electrocution is the second leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house if your home is in danger of flooding. If you smell gas, report it to a City official or your gas company. Do not use candles, lanterns or open flames if you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off.
- Keep children away from the flood waters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains. Flood waters can carry dangerous moving objects that are not visible from the surface. Culverts may also pose hidden dangers and trap children.
- Clean everything that has been wet. Floodwater will be contaminated with sewage and other chemicals, which pose severe health threats.
- Do not use gas engines, such as generators, or charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES

There are many basic maintenance techniques that you can employ to help minimize potential damage to your property during heavy rains:

- Check sump pumps regularly.
- Clean roof gutters and downspouts regularly.
- Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls to protect against low-level flooding.
- Utilities such as heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters and other major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.
- Temporary measures such as moving furniture and other valuables to higher floors or sandbagging exterior openings will also help.

FLOODPLAIN PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

All development within the 100-year floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) is required to obtain a permit from the City. Applications must be made prior to doing any work in a floodplain area. Please contact the Engineering Division to receive all the information you will need in order to properly develop in the floodplain at (815) 356-3605. You may report any illegal development activities to the above number as well.

FLOOD INSURANCE

Many residents are unaware that most homeowner's insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is available to residents of Crystal Lake through their individual insurance carriers, as the City is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Additionally, because the City participates in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program, flood insurance premiums are discounted for residents in the 100-year floodplain.

If you currently have flood insurance, be sure to check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Usually these policies cover the building structure, but not the contents. Contents coverage can also be obtained and there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage becomes effective. Plan ahead; do not wait until a flood is predicted before purchasing flood insurance.

If you are building inside the floodplain, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory if using a federally regulated and insured bank for a loan.

DRAINAGE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas, as well as greatly reduce overland blockage that significantly contributes to flooding. It is illegal to dump materials (including but not limited to oil, grease, pesticides, or other pollutants) into a waterway or down storm drains, and violators may be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping or see debris in one of our waterways, please contact the Engineering Division at (815) 356-3605.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

More information regarding flood-related issues in Crystal Lake can be found at:

- National Flood Insurance Program website: www.floodsmart.gov/
- City of Crystal Lake Engineering Division
  100 West Woodstock Street
  Crystal Lake, IL 60014
  (815) 356-3605
- City of Crystal Lake Website: http://tiny.cc/i4v6jz
- Crystal Lake Public Library

QUARRY CABLE PARK

Pop-up Weekends

The Quarry will host two more Pop-Up Weekends this Spring.
March: Friday 3/13 & Saturday 3/14 (St. Patrick's Day Theme)
April: Friday 4/17 & Saturday 4/18

Each Pop-up weekend will follow the same format Friday and Saturday:

- Quarry Bar & Grille will be open from 4:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. with live music 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. in the main building.
- Artisans and Vendors will set up shop in the Lakeside room and their items will be available for sale from 4:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Please visit the Quarry FB page, Instagram or website: www.thequarrycablepark.com for additional details.

Event Space

The Quarry indoor event spaces are available year-round with Quarry's main building accommodating groups of up to 100 people. The Quarry also has outdoor event options for Summer and Fall.

If you are interested in renting one of our event spaces, please visit the Quarry website or call: (815) 893-0036.

Watch for 2020 Cable Wakeboard & Quarry Spring/Summer events information in the April City Newsletter.



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Employment Opportunities

- Three Oaks Recreation Area is currently hiring lifeguards for the 2020 season.
- Please visit the City of Crystal Lake website at www.crystallake.org. Positions are listed under the Human Resources Department, Employment Opportunities.

2020 Park Partners and Events

Marina

- The Marina will open for the season at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 11, 2020. The Marina will be open on weekends only in April from 6:30 a.m. to sunset.
- Only row boats will be available in April due to cold weather. We will have our full fleet of boats available beginning in May, including: row boats, paddleboats, kayaks, canoes, and pontoon boats.

Swim Beach

- Come join us for fun in the sand or at the splash pad and playground!
- The Swim Beach will open for the season on Saturday, May 23, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Open water swims will be held on select Thursday nights and Saturday mornings throughout the summer.

Park Partners

While not open in April, you can reach out to directly to our park partners for event information and reservations in 2020.

Alpine Accessories
(Stand-Up Paddleboarding)
(847) 854-4754
www.alpineaccessories.com



Quarry Cable Park
(Wakeboard Park)
(815) 893-0036
www.thequarrycablepark.com

The Cottage on the Beach
(Beach Concessions)
(815) 459-7520

5517 Northwest Highway
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
www.crystallake.org/three-oaks recreation
Information Line: (815) 356-2447
Rainout Line: (815) 506-9333

Follow the City of Crystal Lake and Three Oaks on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

CURBSIDE ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT: WEEK OF MARCH 9 – 13, 2020

Prairieland Disposal will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the **week of March 9-13, 2020**. Residents may set out a maximum of five (5) electronic items, including a limit of one (1) TV or one (1) computer monitor. The electronics will be collected on the resident's regularly scheduled collection day. Prairieland Disposal will conduct an additional electronics collection during the week of September 14 - 18, 2020.

The following table details which items may and may not be set out for electronics collection:

Accepted Electronics Items	Items NOT Accepted
One Television or One Computer Monitor	Air Conditioners
Cell Phones, Telephones and Tablets	Appliances
Cameras	Batteries
CD Players	Battery Operated Children's Toys
Computer Drives	Coffee Makers
Cords and Cables	Computer Disks
Electronics Mice and Keyboards	Dishwashers
Fax Machines and Printers	Hair Dryers and Hair Irons
Holiday Lights	Humidifiers
Modems	Liquid or Chemical Waste
Paper Shredders	Microwave Ovens
Satellite Receivers	Packaging Materials
Scanners	Refrigerators
Stereos	Smoke and Fire Detectors
Video Game Consoles	Water Softeners

Please contact Prairieland Disposal at (847) 381-9300 with any questions regarding the electronics collection event.

CALENDAR | March 2020

Tuesday, March 3
- City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, March 4
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Tuesday, March 17
- City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, March 18
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Saturday, March 28
- Home & Business Expo, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Crystal Lake South High School)



City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

MAYOR

Aaron T. Shepley

COUNCILMEMBER

Ellen Brady

Cathy A. Ferguson

Brett Hopkins

Cameron Hubbard

Haig Haleblian

City Clerk

Nick Kachiroubas

City Manager

Gary J. Mayerhofer

Police/Fire/Ambulance

Emergency Only

911

All Other Departments

(Non-Emergency)

815-459-2020

www.crystallake.org

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City of Crystal Lake

100 W. Woodstock Street

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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Crystal Lake, IL

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Visit www.crystallake.org/your-government/communications/enews-sign-up

to receive the newsletter by e-mail only.

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

The City of Crystal Lake values the opinion of its residents. If you have any concerns or comments about the City Letter, please express them in the space provided below. (If you need more space, please attach a separate piece of paper). Clip this and mail to: City Letter, City of Crystal Lake, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Questions or comments can also be sent to comments@crystallake.org.