City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER

MAYOR'S COMMUNITY MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As you are well aware, Crystal Lake, together with the entire nation, is facing uncertain and difficult times due to the COVID-19/ Coronavirus pandemic. The circumstances surrounding this crisis do not change every day; they change every hour. As such, it is a challenge for local leaders throughout the United States to provide information to our residents in a timely way. Many local communities, including Crystal Lake, do not have a dedicated health department. We rely on staff from other agencies including those at the county, state and federal levels to provide information regarding regional and national health concerns. Our goal is to funnel this information to you through various communication channels, including the City's website, the print version of the City Letter, and press releases sent to our local media. The City has also set up a dedicated phone line and e-mail address to answer your questions regarding COVID-19. You can submit questions to info@crystallake.org or call (815) 356-2448.

I am confident that because of our community's strength we will overcome this challenge. The City of Crystal Lake was four years old in 1918 when a flu pandemic struck and the residents at that time overcame the crisis by sticking together. We have better tools at our disposal now than our forefathers, which is why I am confident that we will emerge from this crisis as strong as ever. We cannot stop Coronavirus from coming to Crystal Lake; it is already here and in each of the 50 states. However, there are so many things we can do, beginning with following all the directives of the Governor, including most notably the March 21, 2020, directive to STAY HOME unless you are participating in essential activities.

In order to successfully navigate this health crisis, each individual and family should be asking themselves, "What can I do to respond to this public health emergency?" I hope that this communication will help you to answer this question.

First, it is important that you keep yourself informed by using ***reliable*** news sources. To access the most reliable resources, I encourage you to visit the City's website where you will find a dedicated COVID-19/Coronavirus webpage. This page has important information about City services and other resources, including links to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health and the McHenry County Department of Health. The City website is updated frequently as new information becomes available.

Another way for you to respond to this pandemic is to support our local Crystal Lake community, especially those who are hurting. While following the Governor's stay at home order, don't forget to call or contact the most vulnerable members of our City. Your kindness will go a long way in this challenging time. As you can imagine, the economic impact on local businesses will be significant. We hope that you will support local restaurants, many of whom are offering curbside pick-up/ carry out or delivery. Many grocery retailers are also offering these services, and special hours for seniors and other high-risk individuals.

A third way for you to respond to this situation is to calmly follow the recommendations and directives of the CDC and state agencies. These recommendations include, working from home if possible, social distancing, washing your hands, and only going out when necessary for groceries, getting gas or other essential activities. Your help will limit the spread of COVID-19 to friends and neighbors.

Finally, I want to reassure every Crystal Lake resident that we will make it through these challenging and uncertain times. Please know that the City is following recommendations made by federal, state and county agencies that are taking the lead in this ongoing effort to mitigate the spread of this virus. The City's staffing plan ensures continuity of services. Also, be thankful for all of the members of the community who are sacrificing to help others.

Sincerely,
Aaron T. Shepley, Mayor

COVID-19/CORONAVIRUS INFORMATION

The City of Crystal Lake is actively monitoring the activities associated with the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19. The McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) is the lead agency for infectious disease in McHenry County and the City is coordinating its efforts with their guidance along with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and IL Dept. of Public Health (IDPH).

The City has established email and voicemail options for members of our community to request information related to City activities in response to COVID-19. Additionally, these communication options can also be used to request guidance on where to find information. Our representatives will work to provide the information in a timely manner.

- Email: info@crystallake.org or Voicemail: (815) 356-2448

The City has been monitoring the situation and has been in contact with MCDH, IDPH, State of Illinois, and federal agencies, to be informed of the most recent information available.

The City of Crystal Lake public lobby is closed to walk-in traffic until at least April 7, 2020. The Police public lobby will remain open, Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM for essential business only. The timeline for the closure to the public will be re-assessed and the public will be updated as necessary. The City has operational plans in place to ensure the delivery of City services.

The City's Brush Drop-Off Site operations may be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents are asked to please visit the City's website for current information.

The City encourages its residents to seek reliable sources of information on best practices for reducing the spread of this new virus. The City recommends the following sources:

- **The World Health Organization (WHO)** https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- **IL Department of Public Health (IDPH)** http://www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus
  Dial 1-800-889-3931 or email DPH.SICK@ILLINOIS.GOV to have all your COVID-19 questions answered.
- **McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH)** https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/county-government/departments-a-i/health-department/covid-19-novel-coronavirus
- **Northwestern Medicine** https://www.nm.org/conditions-and-care-areas/infectious-disease/novel-coronavirus
- **Advocate Aurora Health** https://www.advocateaurorahealth.org/coronavirus-disease-2019
- **Notification of Stay at Home Executive Order** https://www.crystallake.org/home/showdocument?id=18510
- **Executive Order FAQ** https://www.crystallake.org/home/showdocument?id=18512

For additional information, please visit https://www.crystallake.org/our-community/covid-19-coronovirus-information.

THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING TIPS TO HELP PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS FROM COVID-19

Clean your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Take steps to protect others

Stay home if you're sick

- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

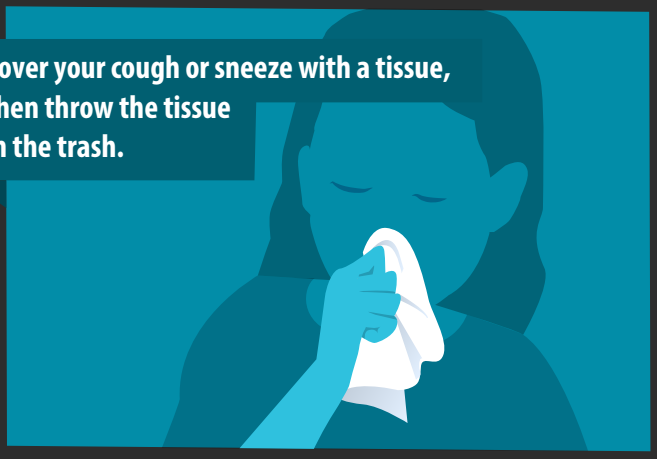
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.





Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.





Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

For more information: **www.cdc.gov/COVID19**

CS314915-A

State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Public Health

COVID-19 Social Distancing

Social distancing actions are taken to restrict when and where people can gather to stop or slow the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or other infectious diseases in communities. Social distancing actions include prohibiting groups of people coming together, closings buildings and canceling events.

Protect yourself and your community

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

If you don't have soap or water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home when you're sick.



Change your daily habits

Avoid shopping at peak hours and take advantage of delivery or pick-up services with retailers.



Work with your employer

Cooperate with leadership to change company practices, set up flexible shift plans, have employees telecommute, and cancel large meetings or conferences.



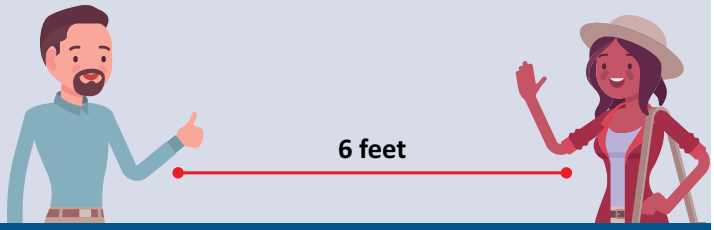
Universities and colleges

Implement web-based learning and cancel campus meetings and gatherings.



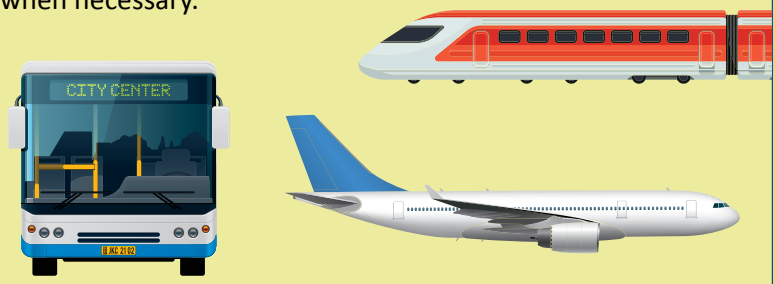
Keep at least six feet between you and others.

Avoid shaking hands as a social greeting.



Public transit

Avoid public transit, if possible, and travel only when necessary.



Crowded places

Avoid crowded places. Gatherings are limited to no more than 10 people.



IDPH
Illinois Department of Public Health

Questions about COVID-19?
Call 1-800-889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov
Illinois Department of Public Health - www.dph.illinois.gov

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ONLINE SERVICES: HOW DO I?

The City of Crystal Lake offers a variety of online services. The "How Do I?" Menu on the City's Home Page allows you to report traffic concerns and crimes, pay utility bills, apply for building permits, and more!

The "How Do I?" Menu, https://www.crystallake.org/how-do-i provides easy access for residents to the following online services.

Request or Report:

The Citizen Support Center allows residents to submit requests for service, report property maintenance or traffic concerns, and request public records. Please visit https://www.crystallake.org/how-do-i/request-or-report to submit your questions or concerns to the City.

Pay For:

Water and sewer utility bill payment can be made by visiting https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/finance/water-and-sewer-billing/payment-options. Utility bill payments can also be deposited in a payment box located in the parking lot at the City Hall, or by mail.

Vehicle Stickers can also be purchased online or via mail through the "How Do I?" Menu. Information about garbage and recycling services through Prairieland Disposal can be found here as well. Accounts can be set up by contacting Prairieland Disposal at (847) 381-9300.

Parking Tickets can also be paid online at https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/police/parking-services/parking-ticket-payments or via mail. Information regarding False Alarm Fine payments is also available through the "How Do I?" Menu.

Applying For:

The City of Crystal Lake is excited to announce the expansion of ez APP, an online portal for building permits, development applications and property maintenance information! This portal allows residents and contractors to move through the building permit, fire permit, and zoning petition process without leaving the comfort of their home or office. Ez APP is truly a one-stop-shop!

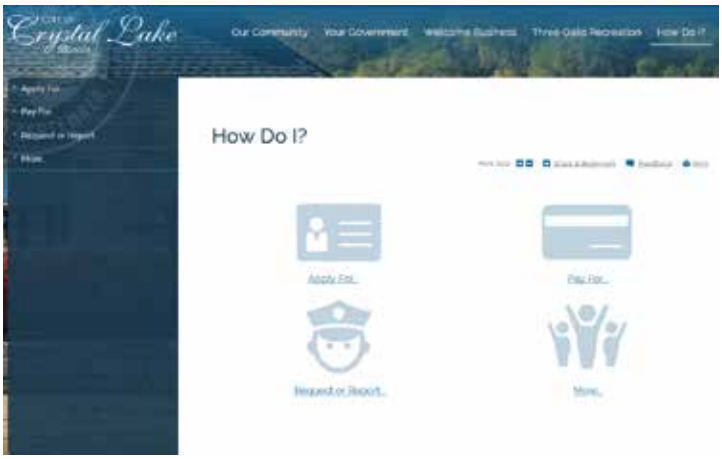
WHAT CAN YOU DO IN EZ APP? HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

- Both building and fire permits can be applied for, reviewed, paid for & issued and inspections can be requested, all online.
- Wondering if the work being done next door has a permit? Check through ez APP.
- Zoning or variation applications can be applied for, reviewed, and paid for online.
- Do you see a property maintenance issue? Submit the issue in ez APP for the City to investigate.
- The system will allow anyone to check if a property has a pending property maintenance complaint.

The City is pleased to offer an online process that is streamlined and convenient for residents, increases transparency, and reduces the amount of paper waste. Providing these services online opens City Hall 24/7 for more convenience and improved efficiency. Check out ez APP by visiting the City's website at https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/ezapp.

Applications and renewals for liquor licenses, commercial refuse licenses, and raffles can be processed through the City's online licensing portal Citizenserve. Please visit https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/city-manager-s-office/licenses to submit your application or renewal online today.

Visit www.crystallake.org and click on the "How Do I?" Menu in the upper right corner of the Home Page to learn more.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Unlicensed Solicitors Posing as City Employees

It has been reported to the Crystal Lake Police Department that within the City limits of Crystal Lake a person(s) is going door-to-door and identifying themselves as City of Crystal Lake employees working on behalf of ComEd. The subjects are requesting a copy of a past bill as well as attempting to solicit a 3rd party electricity provider. This individual(s) does **not** represent the City of Crystal Lake.

All solicitors are required to be registered with the City of Crystal Lake and must display a city-issued permit at all times. The City of Crystal Lake does not endorse nor work in conjunction with any door-to-door solicitors, including ComEd.

If you should have an encounter with any solicitor that does not have a permit displayed, uses questionable selling tactics, or does not acknowledge "NO SOLICITOR" postings, please contact the Police Department immediately at our non-emergency number at 815-356-3620. If you feel you need immediate assistance, please do not hesitate to dial 911.

While most companies abide by City licensing requirements, there are those that refuse to. Please assist us in identifying these solicitors by getting a physical description of the person or vehicle they drive.

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

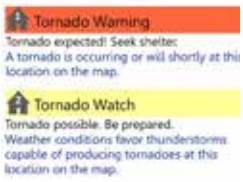
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

SPRING WEATHER SAFETY

It is that time of year, where the snow starts to finally melt and the temperatures start climbing again. With that however, can come some undesirable spring weather. Below are tips from www.weather.gov/safety to help better prepare yourself.

TORNADOES:

- Winds from tornadoes can exceed 200 miles per hour.
- Flying debris can be extremely dangerous.
- Seek shelter inside in the lowest level, away from windows, and cover your head.



LIGHTNING:

- Thunderstorms usually produce lightning.
- Lightning kills an average of 30 people each year.
- Take shelter inside a sturdy structure or a hard-topped vehicle.



THUNDERSTORMS:

- Severe thunderstorms are capable of producing strong winds and/or large hail.
- Seek shelter in the lowest level of a sturdy structure away from windows.
- Being inside a vehicle is safer than being outside.



FLOODING:

- Flooding can be caused by melting snow, ice jams, and heavy rain.
- It only takes 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car.
- More than half of all flood fatalities are vehicle-related.
- Never drive onto flooded roadways or around barricades.

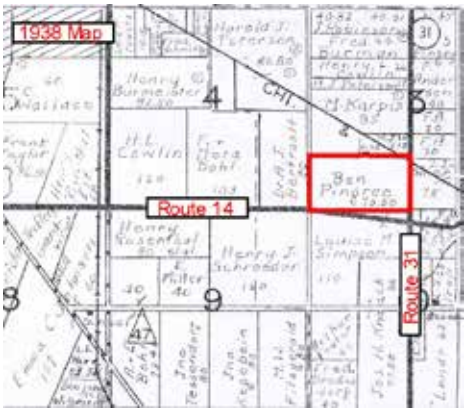


PINGREE'S ONE-STOP SHOP

BY DIANA KENNEY

Way back in 1870 – that's 150 years ago- Josiah Walkup sold 80 acres of prime farmland in Algonquin Township to Civil War veteran, Beman K. Sparawk for $2,000. Sparawk held onto the land, cultivating it for 43 years before selling the farm to Ben Pingree in 1913 for $6,400.

The farm was located on the northeast corner of today's intersection of Route 14 and Pingree Road, starting where Jameson's Steakhouse is today and stretching north and east.



Ben Pingree was born in Chicago on August 10, 1883. In 1906, Ben married Margaret Messinger of Cary. The marriage announcement in the newspaper indicates he held a "responsible position" at the American Terra Cotta Factory. The 1910 Census lists his occupation as a laborer at a milk factory. After acquiring the land in 1913, the Pingrees worked the farm for a number of years before seeking a new and better way to use the land. Their frontage on today's Route 14 (then known as Route 19) brought traffic right past their door. All those cars needed gasoline; so Pingree opened up a gas station and soon after a restaurant.

By the early 1930s, Pingree's corner had a number of businesses operating, all catering to the motoring public. Motorists could stop at Pingree's to fill their gas tanks and fill their stomachs with BBQ sandwiches. When Prohibition ended, Ben added liquor to his restaurant menu, and his place became known as Pingree's Tavern. Too much to drink? No problem! You could stay overnight in one of the nearby cabins Ben built for overnight guests.



The price of owning a tavern cost the Pingrees their marriage. Margaret filed for divorce in 1936, citing her husband had become a drunkard and was abusive. Soon after the divorce, Ben married Alma Hollst Kittredge. Together, Ben and Alma expanded the menu at the Pingree's, offering fried chicken and homemade pies.



During the 1930s, Pingree's sponsored a local baseball team known as the Pingree Sluggers. In the 1940s, his team was called the Pingree Cubs. The roster of names on the Pingree Cubs included Eibisch, Gieseke, Legel, Neumann and Behrens. These well-known Crystal Lakers played on a baseball diamond built just for them on Pingree's farm.

A 1938 newspaper article tells of Bozo, a 400-pound bear owned by Ben Pingree. Bozo was kept in a cage near the tavern. Other animal oddities owned by Ben included a monkey-faced owl and a coyote-dog. People enjoyed stopping by Pingree's to see his unusual "zoo" of animals.

Other amusements offered at Pingree's during the 1940s included trapshooting, horseback riding, and slot machines.

Alma Pingree passed away on July 15, 1950 and is buried in Union Cemetery. Three years later, Ben retired and sold the tavern business to Mr. & Mrs. Albert "Ollie" Schwarz, but retained ownership of the cabins, his own house and farm. Sometime in the 1950s, Ben and his first wife Margaret reconciled and reunited. Ben Pingree died in 1961; Margaret died in 1966. They are buried side-by-side at Crystal Lake Memorial Park.

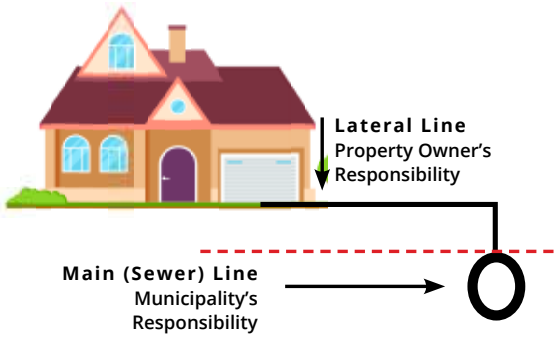
One has to wonder....what would Beman Sparawk think about the changes to his farm over the past 150 years?

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.

SANITARY SEWER BACKUP INFORMATION

If a sanitary sewer backup occurs:

1. Stop using water - this contributes to the backup. Do not run any water down your drains until the blockage has been cleared.
2. Call the City of Crystal Lake Public Works Department at (815) 356-3614 (24/7) to inspect the City's main sewer line. There is no charge to you for having City crews out to check for a problem.
3. Quickly close all drain openings with stoppers or plugs. Tub, sink, and floor drain plugs may need additional weight to keep them sealed. A string mop can be used to help plug toilet openings.



Why do I call the City before I call a plumber?

The City maintains the main sewer lines. If the backup is in the City's lines, City crews will resolve the issue. This saves you the expense of having a plumber come out for a blockage they could not have cleared. If the City's inspection of the main line shows it is clear, then call a plumber, as the problem is in your lateral service line.

What portion of the sewer lines is the homeowner's responsibility?

Homeowners are responsible for the lateral line, which is the portion of the sewer line that services your home. Please see the diagram for clarification.

How can sewer backups be prevented?

The City inspects and cleans the sanitary sewer mains throughout the City. Homeowners can help prevent backups by NEVER flushing diapers, sanitary napkins, paper towels, rags, or grease down a drain or toilet. Tree roots may invade your lateral line. Homeowners can hire a plumbing company to preventatively remove tree roots.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: REFUSE, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Prairieland Disposal is not collecting bulk items. This is to limit the exposure of Prairieland employees to the virus.

Does Prairieland Disposal offer composting?

Prairieland Disposal offers multiple composting options for residents. Residents can purchase a composting bin to collect and dispose of food scraps with their regular yard waste collection. Residents may also put food scraps directly into their yard waste tote or yard waste bags for collection. Please contact Prairieland Disposal at (847) 381-9300 to request a compost bin or to receive additional information regarding composting options.

When does yard waste collection begin?

Yard waste collection begins on April 1st each year. Yard waste will be collected until the second week of December.

How should I dispose of plastic bags?

Plastic bags from grocery and retail stores are not allowed to be included with residential recycling. Although it is common to use plastic bags to bundle recyclable material, the bags are not recyclable even if there are recyclable materials inside the bags. There are two options for residents to dispose of accumulated plastic bags from grocery and retail stores:

1. Jewel-Osco and Walmart will accept returned plastic bags that are not contaminated, or;
2. Place any plastic bags from grocery and retail stores in your garbage container for collection.

Can my garbage and recycling bins be stored in front of my house?

The current City ordinance states that garbage and recycling cans cannot be stored in the front yard setback, which is typically the area between the sidewalk and the front of the house. They can be stored beside the house or garage so long as they are out of the front yard setback.

What should I do if my garbage or recycling collection is missed?

Any garbage, recycling or yard waste that is missed by Prairieland Disposal will be collected within 24 hours of the missed collection. Please contact Prairieland Disposal at (847) 381-9300 if your garbage, recycling or yard waste has been missed.

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

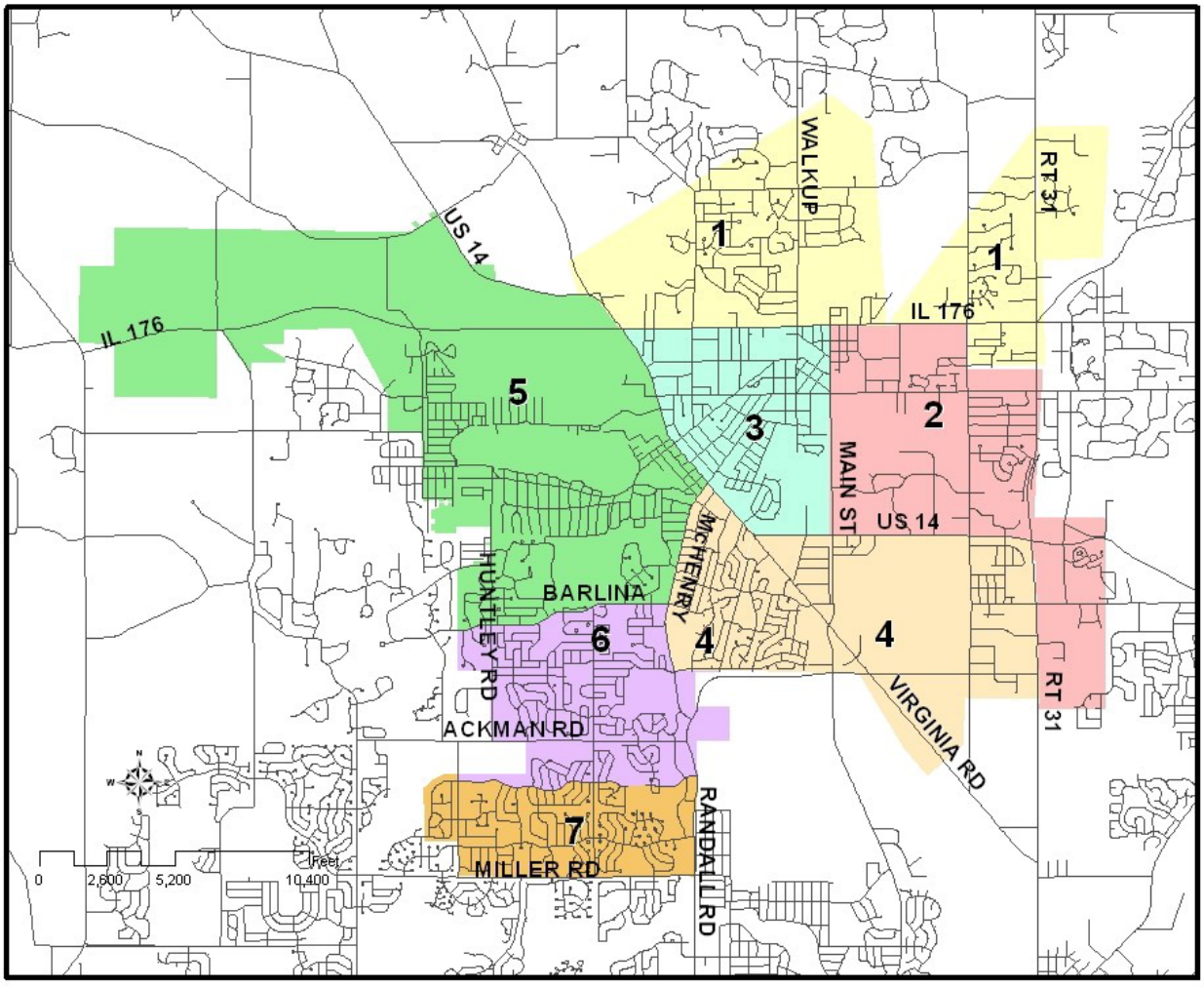
West of Route 14 & McHenry Avenue North
of Barlina Road

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



SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

All Illinois small businesses (according to SBA's size standards) and private non-profits can now apply for loans of up to $2 million through the U.S. Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program.

If your businesses have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic, this program offers working capital to meet needs including payroll, accounts payable, and fixed debt payments until the situation improves. Interest rates are 3.75% for small businesses and 2.75% for non-profits. Your businesses may apply now at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED: 2020 CENSUS

What matters to you? Schools? Transportation? Hospitals? Data from the U.S. Census Bureau help inform planning efforts for all these important community resources. To learn how census data impact you and your community, visit 2020census.gov.

Residents should have received information from the U.S. Census Bureau regarding completing the 2020 Census online. Completing the information only takes a few minutes, and benefits the Crystal Lake community. The City of Crystal Lake encourages residents to stand up and be counted!



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

The City has installed several pedestrian crossing beacons around the City to improve pedestrian safety. The beacons are push-button activated and are located at non-signalized road crossings with heavy pedestrian traffic.

When crossing at these signals, always follow these general safety rules:

For Drivers:

- Always STOP for pedestrians entering or in a crosswalk.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.
- Don't block the crosswalk.



For Pedestrians:

- Make eye contact with motorists to be sure traffic is yielding before entering the crosswalk.
- Make sure all lanes of traffic are clear before you cross the street.
- Walk defensively, scanning both directions to be sure motorists see you.

CRYSTAL LAKE AVENUE AND MAIN STREET INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Please watch for delays and detours 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".



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

The Park is open daily at 6:30 a.m. until Sunset. The walking trails are open at this time, but patrons are asked to please use social distancing practices while utilizing them.



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!

City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

MAYOR

Aaron T. Shepley

COUNCILMEMBER

Ellen Brady

Cathy A. Ferguson

Brett Hopkins

Cameron Hubbard

Haig Haleblian

Ian Philpot

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.