City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER







FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

OCTOBER 4TH-10TH IS FIRE PREVENTION WEEK!

"SERVE UP FIRE SAFETY IN THE KITCHEN!" ™

The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.

COOK WITH CAUTION

- Be on alert! If you are tired or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire:

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire:

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

Source: nfpa.org

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Bullying Prevention Month

Bullying can come in many forms. It is aggressive, mean, and can be life threatening. October is National Bullying Prevention Month and it serves as a reminder that students, parents, and teachers all play a role in preventing bullying. In order to promote positive change, we should all continue to emphasize respect and inclusion. Some forms of bullying are obvious while others may be more subtle.

There are many types of bullying. One of the most prevalent amongst your children may be cyberbullying. Cyberbullying includes the use of social media, text messages, and other online platforms through a computer or cell phone. Cyberbullying takes form in abusive or hurtful text messages, emails, images, or videos.

Being bullied can result in experiencing a feeling of being unwanted, depressed, and can lead to thoughts of suicide. Some experiences may have long-term effects. It is important that you talk to your child about bullying.

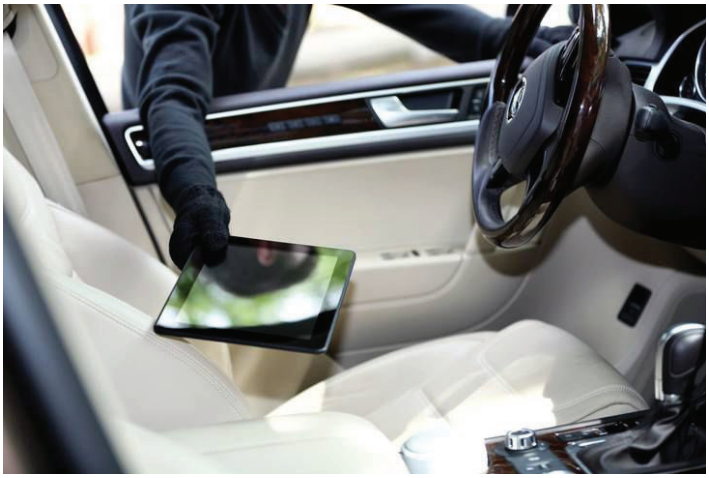
If you need help:
MCHELP is a free, anonymous voice or text service offered 24/7 by licensed mental health counselors. MCHELP provides assistance with many issues such as depression, bullying, suicidal thoughts, social and family pressures, substance abuse, and many more. You can download MCHELP on the Apple APP Store or Google Play Store.

The Crystal Lake Police Department encourages those who are being harassed, or if you know someone that is being harassed, to notify the police.

What Attracts Car Burglars?

Keeping your personal belongings or anything of value such as; a portable GPS system, cell phone, iPad or tablet, wallet, keys, currency, check book, or a pill bottle, empty or not, will bring unwanted attention to your vehicle. It is very important to keep items such as these out of view within the vehicle. An item that may not be of value to you is of value to a burglar. Remember your personal information is affixed on your prescription bottle. If you're leaving your vehicle parked in the driveway overnight, ensure your doors are locked and all windows are rolled up. They will help to deter criminal activity.

If you discover your vehicle was rummaged through, please contact the police immediately.



Crime Stoppers

Crystal Lake Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards of up to $1,000.00 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 can be reached at 1-800-762-STOP (7867). Caller ID is not used.

Crime STOPPERS

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours: Open daily 6:30 a.m. to sunset year-round.

Park Trails:

The park and miles of trails will be open daily throughout the fall and winter. The east trail is accessible from Pingree Road and connects to the east shoreline and parking lot. The west trail is accessible from inside the park near the beach entrance. Multiple shelters and picnic tables are available on each trail, along with convenient shoreline fishing locations.





Picture Submissions:

The cooler temperatures will bring many changing colors at the park this fall. The City encourages residents to submit their favorite photos taken at the park this year. Whether it is a photo of wildlife, changing leaf colors, caught fish, or even Halloween costumes worn at the park, the City is always accepting photos from park guests. Pictures should be submitted to threeoaks@crystallake.org or the Three Oaks Recreation Area Facebook page. With permission, submissions received by park guests will be featured on the Three Oaks Recreation Area Facebook page and in the City Newsletter.



Photo Credit: Brian Folan



Photo Credit: Matt Bach

Pavilion Rentals:

The pavilion rental portal will open on January 4, 2021 to allow rentals for the 2021 season. All pavilion rentals are taken on first-come, first-serve basis, so be sure to plan your 2021 event soon!

5517 Northwest Highway
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
www.crystallake.org/threeoaksrecreation
Email: threeoaks@crystallake.org
Information Line: (815) 356-2447
Rainout Line: (815) 506-9333

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

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2020 FIRE PREVENTION WEEK "VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE"

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department will be hosting a "Virtual Open House" through social media for Fire Prevention Week (October 4-10, 2020).

Our page will feature numerous safety messages, videos, demonstrations, activities and more!

Follow Crystal Lake Fire Rescue to be a part of it all!

TRAIN STATION AREA STRATEGIC PLANNING

Join us for a virtual event on October 27, 2020 starting at 6:30 p.m. to discuss housing, transportation and development near the Crystal Lake and Pingree Road Metra Stations.

The event will be held through the Zoom platform with a presentation and panel discussion. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers from participants.

The Zoom link will be provided online via the project website at: https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/community-development/planning-and-economic-development.



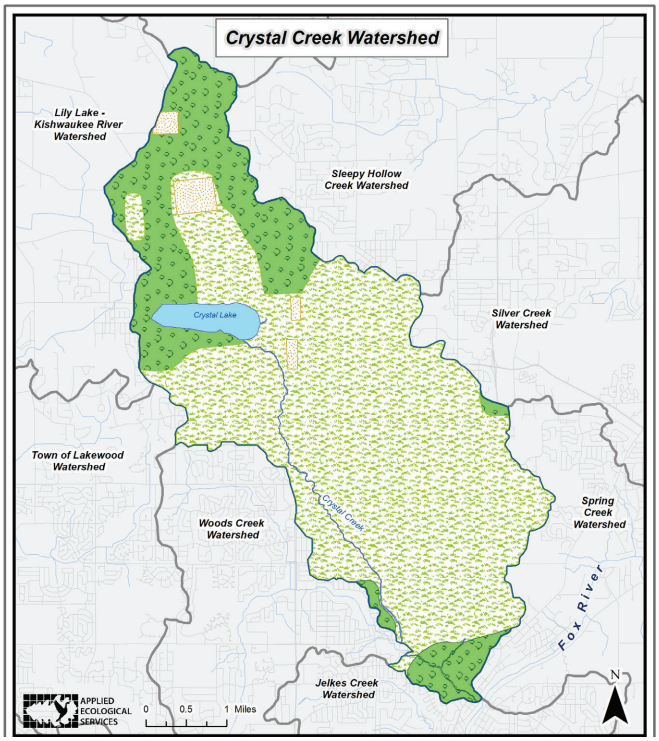
CRYSTAL CREEK WATERSHED WORKSHOP

A virtual workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020 starting at 3:00 p.m. to provide an overview of the Crystal Creek Watershed.

The Crystal Creek Watershed is 12,000 acres of land running across Crystal Lake, Lake in the Hills, Lakewood and Algonquin. Crystal Creek is the outlet of Crystal Lake.

This watershed plan will focus on water quality, groundwater, flooding, green infrastructure, and habitat. The plan will establish goals and prioritize projects in the watershed, helping the City obtain grants for future storm water improvements..



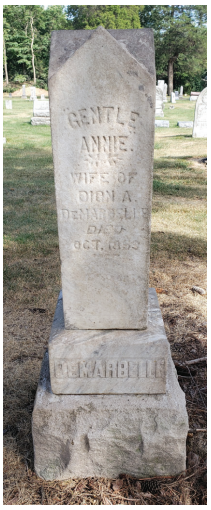


The Zoom link is provided on our website or you can join at: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89228827975?pwd=SW5QT00yNlZ6RnZQQkFQbFpQRjUwUT09
Meeting ID: 892 2882 7975
Passcode: 870312
1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

WHEN THEY RING THE GOLDEN BELLS

BY DIANA KENNEY

Nestled in the center of the Crystal Lake Cemetery (also known as Lake Avenue Cemetery) and under a large tree is a 5-foot obelisk tombstone. On the north face of the stone the name "Dion A. DeMarbelle" is inscribed – no dates. The west face of the stone is the side that catches one's eye. It reads "Gentle Annie - Wife of Dion A. DeMarbelle – Died October 1859".



Daniel (his chosen Americanized version of "Dion") DeMarbelle was a musician and entertainer. His stage name was, "Yankee Dan". It was said that Yankee Dan could play any instrument he picked up. Combined with his outgoing personality, being a showman was a perfect fit.

Yankee Dan travelled about the United States. Why he came to Crystal Lake (a town of about 350 residents) in the 1850s is unknown. But a young girl named Annie Sitts caught his eye and captured his heart. Daniel married Annie on February 13, 1858. She was 14 years old. Yes, you read that right. Annie was the daughter of Crystal Lake residents, Jacob and Mahaley Sitts. Twenty months later, The Woodstock Sentinel published this death notice for Annie Sitts DeMarbelle: "Died. On the 13th of October 1859, at Crystal Lake, of congestion of the brain, Annie DeMarbelle, wife of "Yankee Dan," aged 15 years. Sadly, this is about all we know of "Gentle Annie".

Most biographies on Daniel indicate he was born July 4, 1818 in France, although the 1860 census and Civil War enlistment records indicate his birth year to be 1831. In June 1861, Daniel enlisted with the Union Army, serving as a drummer with the 6th Michigan Infantry. Nine months later, he was honorably discharged with a disability.

After the Civil War ended, Yankee Dan resumed touring the United States as an actor, ventriloquist, slight-of-hand artist and musician. Playbills from Pennsylvania to Kansas to Colorado can be found in newspapers during the 1860s and 1870s. He joined James A. Bailey's circus as a clown and musician. This was before Bailey joined forces with P.T. Barnum in 1881. DeMarbelle then started his own circus. Unfortunately, all of his tents and equipment were lost in a great fire. With little to his name, he found new employment with Buffalo Bill Cody, helping to organize the famous Wild West shows.

As Yankee Dan grew older, he settled down near Elgin, Illinois. He still travelled a bit, but more and more he stayed in the area. He wrote poems and songs, and performed locally. The February 14, 1884 Woodstock Sentinel reported, "A personage bearing the name of Dion DeMarbelle on posters, gave another slight-of-hand performance in the hall Saturday evening, and Monday he was arrested and fined ten dollars for failing to take out the necessary license."

A few mentions in The Nunda Herald in 1884 indicate DeMarbelle came back to Crystal Lake to visit friends, and perhaps to visit the grave of his "Gentle Annie".

DeMarbelle wrote over 25 songs. His most famous was a hymn written in 1887, "When They Ring the Golden Bells. "The song is found in church hymnals, and has been sung and recorded by several well-known musicians. A search on YouTube will bring up several of those recordings. Sadly, DeMarbelle was cheated out of his copyright, and never received compensation for his song.

By the 1890s, he was living in poverty, fed and supported through the charity of friends. It is said when Buffalo Bill Cody brought his Wild West Show to Elgin in 1896, he spotted his old friend, DeMarbelle in the audience. Buffalo Bill Cody, Annie Oakley and Yankee Dan DeMarbelle enjoyed a meal together in Cody's private dining car that night. One can only imagine the laughs and the stories shared that evening. It is said that upon parting, Cody pressed a substantial roll of currency into his old friend's hand and wished him well.

Dion "Daniel" A. DeMarbelle lived his final days in extreme poverty, occupying an abandoned building near Elgin. He died December 18, 1903. A sad ending for the life of a man who spent his entire life entertaining people and making them happy.

The local G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Post arranged for his burial in the military section of Elgin's Bluff City Cemetery. A government issued headstone marks the grave.



One must wonder if in his final moments of life, DeMarbelle was comforted by the final words of his most famous song,

"Nevermore with anguish laden
We shall reach that lovely Eden.
When they ring the golden bells for you and me."

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

There are four remaining Brush Drop-Off dates:
October 3 & October 17
November 7 & November 21

How do I participate in the Brush Drop-Off Program?

- The Brush Drop-Off Site is located at 410 S. Main Street. It is open 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from April through November. Residents may dispose of brush, sticks, and branches six inches or under in diameter, and six feet or under in length only.

- This site cannot accept leaves, grass clipping, root balls, twine bound bundles of sticks, or branches bigger than the stated parameters. If twine was used to bind the brush during transport, it must be removed once you get to the site. Once closed for the season, the site will not reopen until the 1st Saturday in April.

How do I dispose of my leaves/yard waste/pet waste?
If you are a Prairieland Disposal customer, they will pick up your leaves, lawn clippings, pet waste, kitty litter, and food organics. All of these items may be co-mingled and placed in yard waste bags (not exceeding 33 gallons) or garbage cans (not exceeding 50 lbs) marked with the words "yard waste".

Place the bags and/or containers at the curb on your regular garbage day. They will also take twine or string bundled sticks and branches. Each bundle must be no more than 4 feet in length and 2 feet in diameter, and not exceed 50 lbs. They will not accept items if they are unbundled, or bundled with something other than string or twine. The yard waste program ends the second full week of December. The service will resume the first full week of April.

More info on Prairieland's recycling program can be found at: https://www.prairielanddisposal.com/.

Please also note, the City Code prohibits you from intentionally blowing, raking, or placing your leaves or grass clippings into the gutter or roadway.

When does Fall Leaf Collection start?
The City's Fall Leaf Collection program is operated by Prairieland Disposal. Leaves in bio-degradable paper bags will be collected from October 5th though December 18th each year. Acceptable containers for leaf collection include:

- Biodegradable leaf bags
- Yard waste totes provided by Prairieland Disposal or resident-owned yard waste bins clearly marked for leaf disposal only.

Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected, since the bags cannot be composted.

Does the City provide a leaf-vacuuming program?
No. The City does not provide a leaf-vacuuming program for the following reasons:

- Storm drainage pipes become clogged from leaves collecting in curbs and streets.
- High winds result in leaves blown into streets and neighboring properties.
- Leaf-vacuuming trucks may cause damage to the public right-of-way.
- Leaf piles left in the street obstruct parking and can have unknown objects under leaf piles.
- Safety concerns from children playing in leaf piles near the street.

Where can I recycle/dispose of old paint/stain/electronics/batteries/bulbs/etc.?
The MCC Sustainability Center puts out a "Green Guide" that lists recycling drives and drop off locations, as well as businesses that can accept these items. This guide is available at: www.mchenry.edu/green/greenguide.pdf.

A detailed list of recyclable items and recycling locations is also available at:
www.mchenry.edu/green/recyclingAtoZ.pdf .

Please be considerate of the environment, and view these documents electronically rather than printing them out.

Should I remove the gator bag from my recently planted parkway tree?
No. City crews will remove the gator bags.



BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

Crystal Lake is home to a strong business community and businesses that locate her stay here. The City is excited to recognize and honor the following businesses on recent milestone anniversaries.

25th Anniversary

The Clothes Gallery
51 N. Williams Street

60th Anniversary

Joe's Barber Shop
29 N. Williams Street

80th Anniversary

Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce
427 W. Virginia Street

60th Anniversary

General Kinematics
5050 Rickert Road

HALLOWEEN UPDATES: TRICK-OR-TREATING AND HALLOWEEN HANDOUT

As of September 24, 2020, neither the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) nor the McHenry County Department of Public Health (MCDH) have issued guidance or restrictions about Halloween trick-or-treating. Should either of the agencies share public health information about Halloween, the City will help publicize their message and comply with their public health guidance.

In the past, the City has established recommended trick-or-treating hours to help keep the community safe due to the increased number of pedestrians. If you choose to participate in trick-or-treating this year, the recommended trick-or-treat hours on Saturday, October 31, 2020, are between the hours of 3:00 p.m.– 7:00 p.m.

If you are uncomfortable with handing out candy, as a way to inform others, please do not turn on your porch light until after the recommended trick-or-treat hours. We then ask parents to please teach your children to not ring the doorbell of a home if a porch light is not on. As a reminder, it's important for everyone to practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet away from other people) and to wear a mask in public settings where social distancing is difficult to maintain.

Halloween Handout

Attention superheroes, witches, goblins and mummies, please be aware that Halloween Handout in downtown Crystal Lake is not taking place this year due to COVID-19 and Phase 4 restrictions. The safety of our merchants and our guests is our primary concern.

Downtown Crystal Lake does have other treats up our sleeves! Check our website (https://downtowncl.org) to see what's brewing in the cauldron!!



CALENDAR | October 2020

Tuesday, October 6

- Virtual Crystal Creek Watershed Workshop, 3:00 p.m.
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, October 7

- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Tuesday, October 20

- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, October 21

- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Tuesday, October 27

- Train Station Area Strategic Planning Session, 6:30 p.m.

City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

ACTING MAYOR

Haig Haleblian

COUNCILMEMBER

Ellen Brady
Cathy A. Ferguson
Brett Hopkins
Cameron Hubbard
Mandy Montford
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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Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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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.