City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER





CHRISTMAS TREE LANE

Join us this holiday season for our second annual Christmas Tree Lane in Depot Park! This year's display will be bigger, better, and more beautiful!

Each year, Downtown Crystal Lake and the City of Crystal Lake provide lights and decorations on the Gazebo and trees in Depot Park. Christmas Tree Lane will make the park even more festive, with the help of the community!

Downtown Crystal Lake will provide additional trees to decorate. Each of these trees will be 4' – 5' in height, and staked to the ground along the paths in Depot Park. Trees will be decorated and ready for display by November 27, 2020. All decorations must be removed between Jan 1-5, 2021.

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FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Drive -Thru Parade: Friday, November 27th
(6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.)

The Festival of Lights Parade is the traditional start to the holiday season when Santa Claus comes to town!

The tradition continues this year, but with a "twist". Rather than having crowds of spectators gather at the side of the road to watch the parade go by, this year the parade units will be parked along both blocks of Williams Street. Spectators will be invited to drive down Williams Street past all the lit floats, bands, and holiday displays, while staying safely in their own vehicle. Santa's float will be at the end of Williams Street, near the downtown Christmas tree. Experience the wonder, joy and magic of the parade while staying safe and healthy.

Interested in being part of this amazing event? Contact Downtown Crystal Lake at (815) 479-0835 or via email at DowntownCL@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Inside:

Toys for Tots

Thanksgiving **Safety**

Leaf Collection

POLICE DEPARTMENT

VETERANS DAY

World War I, known as "The Great War", officially ended after the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. An armistice went into effect between the Allied Nations and Germany on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th every year.

The Crystal Lake Police Department wishes all Veterans in our community a Happy Veterans Day!



MARINE CORPS RESERVE TOYS FOR TOTS

Every year, the Crystal Lake Police Department collects new unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. The toys are collected, wrapped and distributed to many children residing in McHenry County.

Now through Monday, December 21, 2020, please help the Crystal Lake Police Department by donating a new unwrapped toy in the marked Toys for Tots cardboard box located in the Police Department lobby. Our lobby hours are:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



Together, we can make a child's holiday special.

THANKSGIVING TRAVEL SAFETY

Thanksgiving is known to be one of the most traveled holiday periods in the year. Be sure to drive safe and plan ahead.

The Crystal Lake Police Department would like to remind you to be extra aware during this Thanksgiving week. Wednesday, November 25th, the day before Thanksgiving, is known as an unofficial pre-Thanksgiving holiday celebration that focuses heavily on activities involving alcohol. Please remember to drink responsibly. Impaired driving should never be an option.

The Crystal Lake Police Department will be on the roads for traffic and DUI enforcement all through the Thanksgiving week. Be safe and help keep others safe. Buckle up and don't text and drive.

THANK YOU

The Crystal Lake Police Department is extremely thankful for all its citizens and businesses. We want to thank you for taking part in many of our events and showing your support.

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

THANKSGIVING COOKING SAFETY

Did you know Thanksgiving is the peak day for cooking fires? Below are some tips to make sure you and your family can enjoy a safe Thanksgiving this year!

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking and always keep an eye on the food.
- Do not leave the home while cooking your turkey and check on it often.
- Keep children at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- Keep hot dishes, knives, electrical cords, lighters, and matches out of reach of children.
- Keep the floor clear to avoid any trips or falls.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working - test them by pushing the 'test' button.

Source: nfpa.org

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

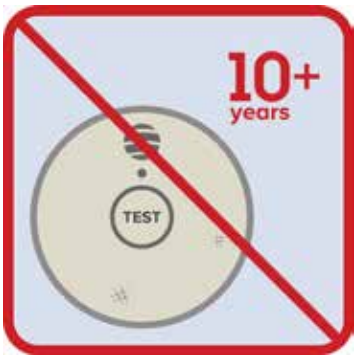
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS & CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2020.

While you set your clocks back, this is a great reminder to check the batteries in your smoke alarms.

Your smoke alarms should be changed every 10 years.

Smoke alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside of each separate sleeping area, and on each level of the home. More than 38% of home fire deaths occur in homes in which no working smoke detectors are present.





Source: www.usfa.fema.gov

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT!



CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

As another season has come and gone, we would like to take a moment to thank our incredibly hard working staff. 2020 has been like no other season we have experienced and not only did our crew members exhibit professionalism, flexibility and promoted a safe place for all Three Oaks guests, they did it with smiling faces - even if those smiles couldn't be seen behind their masks! This 2020 season, we are extremely proud of our entire staff!

PARK HOURS AND TRAIL SYSTEM:

Open daily 6:30 a.m. to sunset year-round. 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 City encourages park guests to submit pictures taken at the park. With permission, submissions received will be featured on the Three Oaks Facebook page and in the City Newsletter. Pictures should be submitted at threeoaks@crystallake.org or the Three Oaks Recreation Area Facebook page.



Photo Credit:
Denise Sciackitano



Photo Credit:
Morgan Thompson

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 a first-come, first-served 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!

A COLORFUL TRADITION CONTINUES

BY DIANA KENNEY

For nearly 75 years, Downtown Crystal Lake has been home to an independently owned paint store, and we're pleased the tradition will continue!

Drawn by the old advertising sign by the train depot which read, "Crystal Lake A Good Place to Live", Jim Vinci and Charles Wirth decided to open up a paint store and see if it was also a good place to do business. The Crystal Lake Paint Store opened up in March, 1946 and was located in the Kruger Building on Railroad Street (where Matt's Tavern is today). The store was well-stocked with paint, wallpaper, supplies and equipment. By 1948, the partnership was dissolved, and the store was known as, "Vinci's Crystal Lake Paint Store".

James A. Vinci was born March 26, 1910 in Chicago. After high school, he earned a living as a painter. In his spare time, he studied two years at the Art Institute to learn the finer points of the trade. After serving 42 months in the Navy during WWII, he was honorably discharged, married his sweetheart Angeline Milioto, and moved to Crystal Lake.

Vinci's Paint Store on Railroad Street did well. In 1949, he hired a part-time assistant, Lloyd Gould. By 1951, Lloyd was a full-time employee. Soon, the location on Railroad Street was too small for the large inventory of items Vinci was offering for sale. In 1954, Vinci moved his business into the old A&P Grocery Story on Williams Street. Schepers Insurance Agency occupied the north portion of the building.

The May 20, 1954 Crystal Lake Herald featured an article on Vinci's new "Automatic Color Carousel" machine which makes "myriads of colors automatically." With this technology, customers could choose the exact shade of paint color they wanted for their home project.

As Vinci's business continued to grow, he branched out, opening a second location in Woodstock. Lloyd Gould managed the Woodstock store for Vinci. In 1960, Gould purchased the Woodstock store, renaming it Lloyd's Paint & Paper. The Woodstock store was a family operation, with Lloyd's wife and two sons helping to run the business.



Jim Vinci continued on at his Crystal Lake location. He was a likable and active community member. He was a member of the Crystal Lake Kiwanis Club, William Chandler Peterson American Legion Post #171, Crystal Lake Union Cemetery Board, and elected to the Crystal Lake City Council. In 1965, he was voted Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Man-of-the-Year.

By 1975, Vinci felt it was time to retire from the business. Lloyd Gould purchased the Crystal Lake store from Vinci, and like its Woodstock sister store, was renamed Lloyd's Paint & Paper. Lloyd Gould's son Al and his wife Bernadette took over operation of the Crystal Lake store.

At Lloyd's Paint & Paper, customers would find more than just paint, wallpaper and window treatments. Customers were sure to find knowledgeable, friendly staff with years of experience who could help homeowners, builders and decorators select just the right items for the look they wanted.

This year, Al and Bernie Gould sold the paint store to JC Licht, and have retired from business. JC Licht is a well-known, reputable Benjamin Moore paint dealer, owning dozens of stores. The little paint store in downtown, first known simply as "Crystal Lake Paint Store" is now in good hands for the future. Here we are, nearly 75 years after the store was first established, and I think it's safe to say that Jim Vinci and Charles Wirth would agree that Crystal Lake is a good place to do business.

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



Brush Drop-Off Program

The remaining Brush Drop-Off dates are Saturday, November 7, 2020 and Saturday, November 21, 2020.

The Brush Drop-Off Site is located at 410 S. Main Street. It is open from 8:00 a.m. to 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 clippings, 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, this site will not reopen until the 1st Saturday in April.

Leaves/Yard Waste/Pet Waste Disposal

If you are a Prairieland Disposal customer, they will pick up your leaves, lawn clippings, pet waste, kitty litter, and food organics at the curb. 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 information on Prairieland's recycling program can be found at: https://www.prairielanddisposal.com.

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

Fall Leaf Collection

The City's Fall Leaf Collection program is operated by Prairieland Disposal. Leaves in bio-degradable paper bags will be collected through December 18th. 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 will be collected on residents' regular collection day. Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected, as they cannot be composted.

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Groups are invited to sign up for a tree and pay a small fee (to help offset costs) to participate. The sponsoring group will be responsible for lighting (LED only) and decorating their tree. A sign near the tree will credit the sponsoring group for the display.

Interested in having your business or organization decorate a beautiful Christmas Tree? Contact Downtown Crystal Lake at (815) 479-0835 or via email at DowntownCL@sbcglobal.net.

TRIM THE FAT AND CEASE THE GREASE

During the upcoming holiday season, it is important to remember that fats, oils and grease don't just clog your arteries; they can clog the City's arteries too. Grease can cause significant problems in City sewers and increases the potential for failure in the system. When a clog develops in the sanitary sewer, the line is blocked and can result in sewage overflowing into basements, roadways, or other low-lying public areas. These backups can create an environmental and health hazard depending on where the discharge point is located.

Grease is a byproduct of cooking from meat fats, lard, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and under the street). Over a period of time, it can build up and block entire portions of your home's plumbing system. Remember, garbage disposals may allow table scraps to fit in the drain, but do not prevent grease from sticking in the sewer.

The best way to prevent fats, oils and greases from clogging in your sewer is to never put these materials down the drain. Here are some helpful tips:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal.
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.

The Public Works Department needs your help to prevent the grease buildup in the City sewers. If you have questions, or would like more information about the hazards of fats, oils and grease in your sewer system, contact the Public Works Department at (815) 356-3614.

CALENDAR | November 2020

Tuesday, November 3
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, November 4
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, November 11
- City Offices Closed for Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 17
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, November 18
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Thursday, November 26 & Friday, November 27
- City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving



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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City of Crystal Lake
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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.