City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



GROWTH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Despite the challenging times, Crystal Lake continues to grow and expand. This newsletter highlights the newest businesses to join the community.

A - Z Interiors
33 N. Williams Street
One-stop shop for everything you might need for your home. We offer anything from accessories to professional design and everything in between.

Fire & Feast
7218 Virginia Road, Unit A
Designs and builds outdoor furniture using high-density polyethylene for low maintenance living.

J Alex Hair Salon
65 E. Woodstock Street
New hair salon across from the downtown Metra station specializing in haircuts, hair coloring and hair extensions.

Lis's Hair Salon
35 Berkshire, Unit 13
New salon specializing in nails, professional makeup and haircuts.

Gym Lyfe Supplements
129 N. Main Street
Offers a wide selection of workout supplements to enhance an individual's energy and performance.

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Inside:

2021 Pavilion **Rentals**

Holiday Light **Recycling**

Snow Removal **Tips**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

SHOP WITH A COP

During the December holiday season, McHenry County Police Charities (MCPC) brings local law enforcement agencies together in McHenry County to volunteer their time to take youths shopping for the Shop with a Cop program. Children are picked up from their home by an officer in their jurisdiction and given a ride to a local Walmart for the event. The children are given a spending limit from donated money, and are assisted by police officers in making their purchasing decisions. Police officers take the opportunity to go shopping with children who need a little help in boosting their holiday joy.

After shopping, volunteers help serve breakfast from D'Andreas Banquets and also help wrap the presents the children picked out while they eat breakfast. Santa makes a visit during breakfast and the children have the opportunity to meet with Santa after they eat. After breakfast, children are returned home with their presents.

The event not only helps increase happiness during this time of year, but it also helps build a positive relationship between the community and the police.

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 Tuesday, December 15, 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, during the hours of:



Monday - Friday:
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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

OVERNIGHT PARKING PROHIBITED

The City of Crystal Lake has an ordinance that prohibits parking for all vehicles on any City street between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.; however, permission to park on the street overnight may be granted for certain hardships. You may request permission to park on the street at https://www.frontlinepss.com/crystallake or contact the Police Department directly at (815) 356-3620.

WORKING SAFELY AT HOME

Now, more than ever people are working from their homes. The National Crime Prevention Council (www.ncpc.org) offers these tips for working safely at home.

- Install solid doors and good deadbolt locks on all exterior doors—and use them.
- Hang window treatments that obstruct the view into your office. You don't want to advertise what equipment you have.
- Consider installing motion-sensored lighting that will come on if someone is walking around your yard.
- Keep bushes and trees trimmed so that you can see into your yard and neighbors can see your house.
- Look into an alarm system. A basic system can be purchased for less than $100, plus a monthly monitoring fee.
- Keep a cellular phone handy.
- When meeting a client for the first time, arrange to meet in a public place, not your home.
- Let someone know when and with whom you have appointments.
- Review your insurance policy. Almost all policies require an extra rider to cover a home office. In the event something does happen, you want to be covered.
- Mark your equipment with identification numbers and keep an updated inventory list (with photos, if possible) in a home safe or a bank safe deposit box. It's a good idea to keep back-ups of your work in a secure, separate location as well.
- Use the same caution with deliveries as businesses do. Anyone making a delivery to your home office should be properly identified before you open the door. Do not let the person enter your home.

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

WINTER HOLIDAY SAFETY

HOLIDAY DECORATING:

- Choose flame resistant or flame retardant decorations.
- Keep candles away from any decorations or things that can burn.
- Check to see if your lights are for indoor or outdoor use, some are not safe for both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Use clips instead of nails to hang lights so that cords do not get damaged.
- Extinguish candles and turn off all light strings before going to bed.

CHRISTMAS TREE SAFETY:

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Cut 2" from the base of the trunk before placing the tree in the stand.
- Make sure the tree is at least 3 feet away from any heat source, including heat vents.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand daily.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving the house or going to sleep.

Source: nfpa.org

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than one-third of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than two of every five decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a source of heat.
- More than one of every four Christmas tree fires is the result of an electrical problem.

ADDRESS IDENTIFICATION

It is important that address identification numbers are properly displayed on your property. Address numbers are required to be a minimum of 4 inches tall with a ½-inch thick stroke. The reflective numbers should be clearly visible from the street, day or night, and contrast with the surrounding background.

If placing numbers on a mailbox adjacent to the street, it is recommended that numbers be placed on both sides of the mailbox for ease of identification. Proper identification of your home or business helps Police and Fire Rescue first responders quickly locate your address in case of an emergency – when seconds count! Please take the time to make sure that your property has identification numbers attached that are visible from the street during the day and night.





Happy Holidays!

From the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department

CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

PARK HOURS AND TRAIL SYSTEM HOURS: Open daily 6:30 a.m. to Sunset year-round.

PAVILION RENTALS:

In-Person Pavilion Reservations Begin January 4, 2021
Online Reservations Accepted January 5, 2021

The City will be monitoring recommendations made by federal and state health agencies to safely accept in-person rentals on Monday, January 4, 2021. Any changes or updates will be posted on the Three Oaks Recreation Area website at www.crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation.

PAVILION RENTAL RESERVATIONS

All pavilions are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. In-person pavilion reservations will be accepted at City Hall on January 4, 2021. Staff will help you create an on-line account to aid in future rentals online. Online reservations will be accepted beginning January 5, 2021. Online reservation requests prior to January 5, 2021 will not be accepted.

HOW TO RESERVE A PAVILION

You have two options to reserve a pavilion. Visit our website at www.crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation/pavilion-rentals and click on the Online Rental Portal link, or visit City Hall.
Reservations can be taken online by:

- You will need to create an account on the portal.
- You will be able to check pavilion availability and submit a request for your pavilion rental.

Important Note: Your pavilion will not officially be reserved until it has been approved by staff and payment has been received. All deposits and rental fees must be paid within 24 hours of your pavilion request approval. If all payments are not received within 24 hours, the reservation will not be accepted. Credit cards are the preferred form of payment.

All details (size of pavilions, locations, fee schedule, amenities) and related FAQ forms are available on our website at www.crystallake.org/three-oaks/recreation under the Pavilion Rentals tab. Should you have any questions, please contact City staff at (815) 459-2020, ext. 4288.



Pavilion A:
Picnic Grove



*Pavilion B:
Island Pavilion



Pavilion C:
Volleyball Court



*Pavilion D:
North Lake Pavilion



Lakehouse Patio:
After Labor Day Only

* The City cannot guarantee Pavilions B (Island Pavilion) and D (North Lake Pavilion) will be available for rental for the Summer 2021. If you would like to rent either of these pavilions, please review and complete the Pavilion Rental Rider Form, which can be found on the Three Oaks Recreation Area website.

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA GUEST PHOTOS:

The City encourages park guests to submit pictures taken at the park. With permission, submissions received will be featured on the Three Oaks Recreation Area Facebook page and in the City Newsletter. Pictures should be submitted at threeoaks@crystallake.org or on the Three Oaks Recreation Area Facebook page.



Photo Credit: Mark Eckel



Photo Credit: Leigha Lucas



Photo Credit: Elijah W.



JOIN THE TEAM!

Applications are being accepted to join us this upcoming 2021 season! Seasonal Lifeguards and Marina Attendant roles are available. For position details, visit the City of Crystal Lake Human Resources Employment page and complete an employment application today!

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!

WATER AND SEWER UTILITY BILL FACELIFT

Beginning in February 2021, City water and sewer customers will see a change to the look of their monthly utility bills. The new utility bill design will feature a clean, user-friendly look and still maintain all of the same important account information as in the past. One added feature is a graph displaying 13 months of water consumption history for the account, allowing for comparability to the prior year. Only the utility bill design has changed, charges have not been altered. Watch your mailbox in February for the new utility bill format. If you have any questions on your water bill, please contact the Finance Department at 815-459-2020 or email at finance@crystallake.org.

2021 CRYSTAL LAKE CALENDAR

Available Now! 2021 Crystal Lake Calendar, "SPORTS & RECREATION - How Crystal Lake Played"

Featuring a year full of photos and information of various sports and recreational activities throughout Crystal Lake history.



In Person Price is $10.
Available at: Crystal Lake City Hall, Colonel Palmer House, Heisler's Bootery, and KaleidoScoops Ice Cream.



Online Price is $13, which includes shipping and handling. Visit www.cl-hs.org for more information.

SANTA HOUSE VISITS

Due to COVID-19, Santa House Visits will look different this year. The safety of Santa and his visitors is our primary concern. Santa will be sitting outside on his decorated porch with a Plexiglas surround. Children will be able to sit on the stairs and visit with Santa and have their pictures taken.



The Santa House is located in Downtown Crystal Lake at Brink Street Market. The memories of visiting with Santa are PRICELESS! Bring your camera, and be prepared to SMILE!

Please note: the entirety of the Santa Visit will take place outside this year, dress warmly! Note: While waiting in line, facemasks must be worn, and social distancing is required.

2020 Santa House Hours:

Thursday & Friday	(6 p.m. – 8 p.m.)
Saturday	(10 p.m. – 3 p.m.)
Sunday	(Noon – 3 p.m.)

PLUS: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday - December 21st -23rd (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.)

MR. EDUCATION: LEON J. LUNDAHL

BY DIANA KENNEY

For forty years (1926-1966), Leon J. Lundahl oversaw the education of thousands of Crystal Lake children. For the first ten years, he was a teacher and principal of the junior high school, and the final thirty years, he was superintendent of School District 47. During those years, Lundahl was more than an educator. He was a coach, a mentor, and a leader in our community.

Leon J. Lundahl was born August 5, 1903 in Beloit, WI, but was raised in Rockford, IL. Lundahl attended Northern Illinois State Teacher's College (now NIU) in DeKalb, graduating in 1926. After graduation, he was immediately hired by School District 47 to be a teacher (social studies, industrial arts, and physical education), a coach (football, basketball, and track) and (last, but not least) Principal at the Junior High School. Not a bad start for a recent college graduate!

At that time, Crystal Lake had one elementary school, one junior high school (both on Paddock Street), and one high school (on Franklin Street). There were two separate school districts (155 and 47), but they shared one superintendent, H.A. Dean.



1950-51 Crystal Lake Grade School Faculty
Left to right, Front row: Valerie Westfiehl, Faith Harrington, Esther Vonderohe, Dolores Prehlberg, Eleanor Harris, Marcia Hillier, Kathryn Huestis, Rose Dimmick.

Second row: Mildred Hooks, Rose Davis, Edith Newcomer, Patricia Vine, Florence Knox, Esther Johnson, Virginia Croghan, Agnes Thomsen.

Third row: Marie Patton, Mildred Lindmark, Mildred Flanders, Lucille Rasmussen, Dorothy Godair, Jean Ericson, Emma Schneidewind, Marjorie Rector, Kathleen Henn.

Fourth row: Leon J. Lundahl, Howard Schneider, Forman Onderdonk, Henry Cotton, Barbara MacArthur, Russell Olson, John Husmann, Corbyn Hamby.

Lundahl's first year of coaching in Crystal Lake was by all counts successful. His football team boasted a winning season, and his 1926-27 Junior High Basketball team went undefeated, 13-0. In the Spring of 1927, Lundahl helped organize the first-ever countywide track meet for junior high athletes.

Always improving himself as an educator and coach, Leon attended school during the summer months. On June 14, 1930 Leon Lundahl married Ruth Webster. The couple honeymooned in the Black Hills before heading down to Boulder, Colorado where Leon could attend summer school at the University of Colorado.

In 1934, the Board of Education raised Lundahl's salary to $1,800 per year. Two years later, H.A. Dean died, and Lundahl was named Superintendent of District 47. Lundahl's salary increased to $2,400 per year.

Over the next thirty years, population growth in the community caused the need for the school district to grow too. In addition to improvements to the Central School campus on Paddock Street, additional schools were built while Lundahl was superintendent, including South Elementary (1952), North Elementary (1954), South Junior High (1959) and West Elementary (1963). District 47's enrollment went from 788 in 1949 to over 3,000 students by the early 1960s.

Outside the walls of his schools, Lundahl worked for the needs of children in our community. He advocated for more children's books for the public library, scholarships for students, summer camps for under-privileged children, and more support for programs such as 4-H Clubs. Leon was a member of the Crystal Lake Lion's Club, and served as its president in 1943.

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In the spring of 1965, Lundahl announced he would retire at the end of the 1966 school year. By October, 1965 one of Lundahl's staffmembers, Corbyn Hamby was set to take over the reins as superintendent. In a surprise move, the school board passed a resolution to rename South Junior High School to Leon J. Lundahl Junior High School in honor of the man who had served the school district so faithfully and well for the last 40 years. Lundahl was surprised at the high honor. Never before had a school building in Crystal Lake been named after an individual.

Leon J. Lundahl, passed away in 1999. I think "Mr. Education" would be pleased to know his legacy of quality education continues in Crystal Lake today.

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.

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GROWTH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

R C fitness
835 S Virginia Road, Unit J
Does the New Year have you thinking about new fitness goals? Come check out this new fitness facility offering small group fitness classes.

The Event Space
81 N. Williams Street
Come show off your creative side! Specializes in paint and sip classes and other make-and-take classes.

Madoli Farms Cafe
701 Manor Road (Inside the YMCA)
Offers a wide selection of smoothies and fresh pressed juices from fruit and vegetables grown on their organic farm across from Veteran Acres in Crystal Lake.

DIY Barkin Bath & Splash Haus, Inc,
450 N. Route 31, Unit 120
Come check out this new DIY dog wash facility and dog pool for canine water rescue and dog dock training classes.

Better Bond Dog Training
450 N. Route 31, Unit 120
New dog, no problem! Offers a variety of specialized dog training classes to meet you and your dog's specific needs.

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARY

40th Business Anniversary

Working World Inc., Staffing Services
14 N. Walkup Avenue
Working World Inc., Staffing Services has been in Crystal Lake assisting area residents and businesses with their employment needs since 1980.

WORKING WORLD INC.
STAFFING SERVICES

CURBSIDE PICK-UP

Skip cooking tonight! Many of your favorite dine-in Crystal Lake restaurants are taking orders to-go! Look for the green sign to see which of your favorite restaurants are offering curbside pick-up options!

Are you a restaurant interested in a sign? Contact the Community Development Department at (815) 356-3605 to have a sign dropped off at your restaurant location.



CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE WINTER SEASON PREPARATIONS

It's that time of year again when winter weather operations are kicking into gear. Last winter, the Public Works Department responded to 19 snow and ice events.

The Public Works Department has begun preparing for the 2020/2021 winter season. Before winter weather sets in, Public Works staff completes snowplow truck inspections, and all trucks are converted into "winter mode" with the installation of de-icing equipment, pre-wetting tanks, and snowplows. All of the City's snowplow drivers review their routes and familiarize themselves with new equipment or procedures.

As we enter into the winter season here are a few helpful reminders:

- Arterial streets are plowed first since all side streets funnel into these heavier used roads.
- Secondary streets, such as residential and local streets, are plowed next.
- Residential streets will be plowed in about 2.5 to 3 hours; starting in the center and then plowed down both sides.
- When shoveling your driveways, snow should be placed to the left of the driveway (to the left if facing the driveway) as this helps our plow drivers push the snow in the appropriate areas.
- Once plow drivers have plowed your road, and if you still need to snow blow your driveway, it is best to place the snow in your yard or in the parkway to prevent snow piles from building up at the end of your driveway.
- Snow should be cleared from fire hydrants to assist the Fire Rescue Department.
- Residents are asked not to park on City streets at night. Parking is prohibited from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

If you have any questions regarding winter season operations, please contact the Public Works Department at 815-356-3614.





SNOW SHOVELING

Snow shoveling season is here! The City would like to remind residents that the depositing of snow onto City streets or onto a neighboring property is prohibited. City crews work hard to make sure our streets are safe for travel. Pushing snow onto the City streets causes unsafe conditions for motorists. Please be a good neighbor and make sure that the snow that falls on your property stays on your property.



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 offers 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?

- Both building and fire permits can be applied for, reviewed, paid for and 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.

HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING

Free holiday light recycling is available at City Hall located at 100 W. Woodstock Street, during normal business hours. Please place your unusable holiday lights in the green Prairieland Disposal bin marked "Christmas Tree Lights Recycling" found next to the Finance/ Administration Department counter in the main lobby of City Hall.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Prairieland Disposal will collect Christmas Trees from January 4, 2021 through January 22, 2021. Trees should be set out at the curb and be free of decorations. Trees over 6 feet should be cut in half. Please do not place trees in a bag.

Tree collection will not coincide with residents' regular collection day.



CALENDAR | December 2020

Tuesday, December 1
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 2
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 24 & Friday, December 25
- City Offices Closed for the Christmas Holiday

Friday, January 1
- City Offices Closed for New Year's Day

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
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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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.