City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

PAVILION RENTAL RESERVATIONS

All pavilions are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Online reservations will be accepted beginning January 5, 2021. Online reservations prior to January 5, 2021 will not be accepted.

When renting a pavilion, renters will be asked to sign a rider acknowledging that in the event that due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, should Federal and State health agencies require a limitation on the number of people to gather on the scheduled rental date, the City will offer options regarding the reservation. The 2021 Pavilion Rental Rider is available at www.crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation/pavilion-rentals.

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.

- 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.
- Complete the 2021 Pavilion Rental Rider.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR CRYSTAL LAKE!

The Crystal Lake Police Department would like to express our most sincere appreciation to the residents of Crystal Lake for their support. As we begin 2021, the Police Department promises to provide excellent police services by continuing to work together with businesses and residents. Together, we have kept the City of Crystal Lake a great place to live.



OVERNIGHT PARKING

The City 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, such as overnight guests, seal coating or driveway repair work. You may request permission to park on the street by going to https://www.frontlinepss.com/crystallake or contact the Police Department directly at (815) 356-3620.

ONLINE CRIME REPORTING

Did you know the Crystal Lake Police Department offers victims the ability to report select minor crimes, such as thefts, criminal damage to property, or criminal damage to a vehicle online? You can even upload pictures to supplement your report. When offender information is known, incidents are not eligible for self-reporting. Completed reports will be assigned an individual number; these may be printed for the reporting person's records or for insurance claims. Persons reporting criminal incidents are cautioned that filing of a false report is a crime in Illinois. Visit our website at crystallake.org and on the left side of the Police Department home page, click on the "Online Crime Reporting" tab.

NIXLE EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

Nixle is a computer messaging system that provides one way to provide timely information to the public. Users who have signed up for the free service will receive instant notifications from the Police Department.

Messages from the Crystal Lake Police Department are received by e-mail or text messages. There is no spam or advertising to those who sign up for this service. To sign up for this free service and begin to receive informational updates, please visit https://nixle.com/crystal-lake-police-department/ or text 60014 to 888777.



UNEMPLOYMENT SCAM ALERT

We have seen a rise in victims of an unemployment scam. This scam involves someone using your identity to file a false unemployment claim with the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). We need your help to educate others about this scam and what they can do. If you or someone you know did not apply for unemployment benefits with the IDES and receive a notice of benefits in the mail, please visit the following website through the Federal Trade Commission at https://www.identitytheft.gov/.

The website is easy to use. Please be patient as the Federal Trade Commission is investigating over 30,000 cases.

Remember:

- Do not activate any debit cards that were mailed to you.
- Report the fraud to your employer and the IRS.
- Run a free credit check to ensure your identity has not been stolen. Free credit checks are available using the following websites: Experian, Equifax, or Transunion.

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Did you know half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February? Below are some tips to help keep you safe in the long winter months:

HEATING SAFETY

- Keep anything flammable at least 3 feet from any heat source (furnace, fireplace, wood stove, space heater, etc.).
- Keep children at least 3 feet from any heat source as well.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your heating equipment annually.
- Remember to turn off any portable heaters before going to sleep.
- Make sure fireplaces have sturdy screens to keep any sparks from flying into your home.



WINTER STORM SAFETY

- Plan two ways out of your home in case of an emergency. Keep your emergency exits clear of snow.
- Clear your driveway and front walkway of ice and snow to provide easy access to your home and keep you safe from any slips or falls.
- Make sure your house number is clear of snow and can be seen from the street so emergency personnel can find you.
- Keep fire hydrants shoveled and clear of snow in case of a fire.
- Stay aware of winter weather: watch the TV, listen to the radio, or check online for updates.
- Stay away from any downed wires and report them immediately.



Source: nfpa.org

CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

(continued from page 1)

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.

Pavilions Available to Rent



Pavilion A:
Picnic Grove



Pavilion C:
Volleyball Court



*Pavilion B:
Island Pavilion



*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.

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!

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

BY DIANA KENNEY

Street lamps were first installed in the sister villages of Crystal Lake and Nunda during the early 1880s. As a reminder, the Village of Crystal Lake was centered around the public park where today's Chamber of Commerce Building is located on Route 14. The Village of Nunda covered the area now known as Downtown Crystal Lake. The two villages often competed with each other, and the race to install street lamps was no exception. It is believed Crystal Lake won that race as the December 15, 1882 Nunda Herald mentions, "The street lamps were up and lighted on the 4th for the first time. Our City, you see, is not going to be behind her sister's."

Do not believe the addition of lamps made the streets of Nunda and Crystal Lake brightly illuminated! In 1882, Nunda had only two street lamps, and it is believed Crystal Lake had less than six lamps in operation. The lights were oil burning lamps, holding about two quarts of kerosene with a burner having a flat wick that was operated by a small wheel on the side. The wick could be raised or lowered as needed. The globes were large and set on posts about 6' in height. To light the lamps, the lamplighter carried a short ladder with the top step rounded out to fit the post. He traveled from post to post lighting them with a match. Lights were extinguished at 10:30 p.m.. Although the first street lamps shed very little light, residents appreciated the sense of security the light provided. Perhaps because of this, lamplighters were also considered the night watchmen of their towns.

Fast forward to 1894 when the McCollum brothers (Emerson, Earl, Harry & Frank) built a frame structure at the corner of Sherman & Main Streets to manufacture cross arms and insulator pins for power poles. The following year they added a small dynamo (generator) run by a steam engine which powered their manufacturing machinery. The brothers saw the potential to produce and sell electricity at their small plant, starting the Nunda Electric Light Company.



Birthplace of electric in Crystal Lake at the corner of Sherman & Main Streets (Crystal Lake Herald 10/12/1950)

This first generating plant provided limited electricity for lighting from dusk to midnight. Additionally, power was turned on during the day on Monday to enable housewives to wash clothes.

The Nunda Electric Light Company scored a contract with the Village of Nunda in October, 1895. Starting November 1st they were to, "furnish the village of Nunda with thirty one incandescent electric lights of thirty two (32) candle power each, in such places and on such streets and alleys in said village as the Board of Trustees shall direct." The street lights were to operate from time of darkness until 11:00 p.m.. Compensation would be $1 per light per month.

Three years later, the tiny start-up company had outgrown its quarters, as demand for their service increased, even beyond the borders of Nunda. A decision was made to purchase land near the corner of Walkup & Woodstock Streets (today's City Hall parking lot). The McCollums built a large brick building for their manufacturing and generating business, which was re-named The Citizen's Electric Light & Mfg. Co. Within a year of the move, brothers Harry and Frank moved on to other enterprises, and Emerson and Earl pulled in a new partner, M.L. Joslyn of Woodstock. The three men added a telephone exchange to their growing business.

In 1902 the company reorganized as the Union Light and Phone Company which furnished both villages (Nunda and Crystal Lake) with its service in electricity and telephone. At that time, it claimed, "Over 100 residences are lighted by electricity, besides the business houses and public buildings."

By 1911, the company was swallowed up by a much larger company known as Public Service Company of Northern Illinois. The McCollums stayed on, finishing out their careers as management executives for Public Service Company.



Electric Lights on Williams Street, looking north from Brink Street -- 1926

Today there are about 4,000 street lights in Crystal Lake powered by electricity. One has to wonder what the first lamplighters or the McCollum brothers would think about that?

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.

NEW BUSINESSES – NOW OPEN

19 N. Williams Street

A new restaurant in downtown Crystal Lake featuring small plates from the US, Europe and Asia alongside gins from around the world and featuring special flavor-infused gin cocktails.

230 W. Virginia Street, Unit 830

New Vietnamese restaurant in the Country Corners Shopping Center offering a wide variety of traditional dishes.

72 N. Williams Street

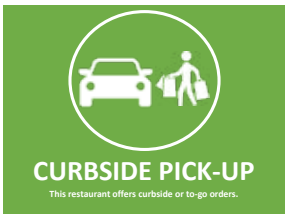
New Moretti's concept with a larger bar beverage selection and streamlined menu focused on take-out and catering of fresh made pub-food along with their famous thin and deep-dish pizzas.

30 N. Williams Street

Offers the top-of-the-line professional skincare and beauty products, alongside a variety of other health and wellness products including gift and home products as well as eyelash extensions, waxing services, and facials.

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!



PUBLIC WORKS SPOTLIGHT

The Public Works Department is located in the City's Municipal Complex at 100 West Woodstock Street. Staff can be reached, from 7:00 a.m.to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at (815) 356-3614.

The City of Crystal Lake Public Works Department currently employs over 55 full-time and seasonal staff members in the Engineering, Fleets and Facilities, Streets, Water & Sewer, and Wastewater Divisions.

Public Works staff can help with questions or concerns in many areas, including:

- Sidewalks and Public Construction Projects
- Water Quality and Pressure
- Potholes
- Tree Trimming, Removal, and Planting
- Surplus Equipment Auctions
- Snow Removal
- Mosquito Abatement
- Reporting Street Light Outages
- Scheduling Water Shut Offs
- B-Box Locations and more!

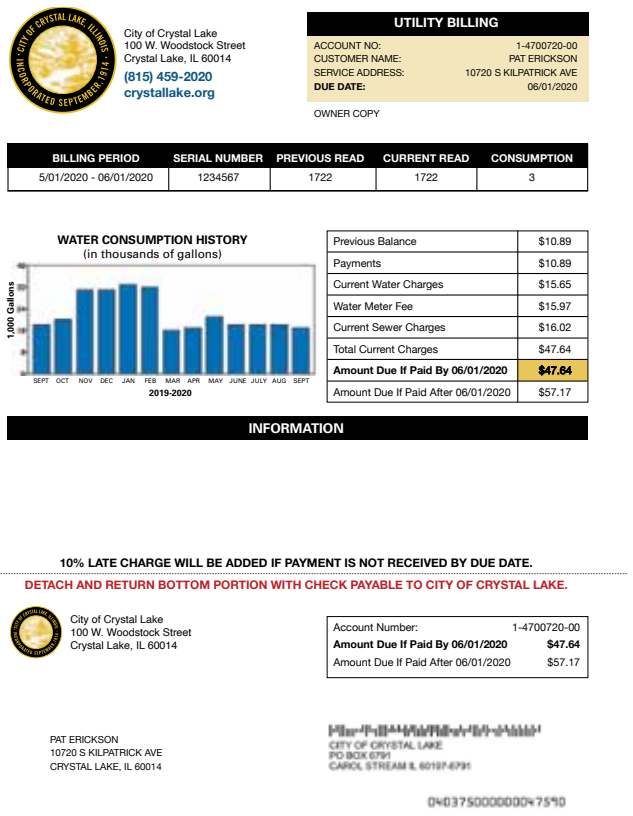
Online requests can also be made directly to Public Works by accessing the Citizen Support Center on the City's website, or at bit.ly/3mTdbRH.



WATER AND SEWER UTILITY BILL FACELIFT

Beginning in February, 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.

Utility bill payments can be made online by visiting www.crystallake.org/yourgovernment/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.



City of Crystal Lake
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
(815) 459-2020
crystallake.org

UTILITY BILLING

ACCOUNT NO:	1-4700720-00
CUSTOMER NAME:	PAT ERICKSON
SERVICE ADDRESS:	10720 S KILPATRICK AVE
DUE DATE:	06/01/2020

OWNER COPY

BILLING PERIOD	SERIAL NUMBER	PREVIOUS READ	CURRENT READ	CONSUMPTION
5/01/2020 - 06/01/2020	1234567	1722	1722	3

WATER CONSUMPTION HISTORY
(in thousands of gallons)

1,000 Gallons

SEPT OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT
2019-2020

Previous Balance	$10.89
Payments	$10.89
Current Water Charges	$15.65
Water Meter Fee	$15.97
Current Sewer Charges	$16.02
Total Current Charges	$47.64
Amount Due If Paid By 06/01/2020	**$47.64**
Amount Due If Paid After 06/01/2020	$57.17

INFORMATION

10% LATE CHARGE WILL BE ADDED IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY DUE DATE.

DETACH AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH CHECK PAYABLE TO CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE.

City of Crystal Lake
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Account Number:	1-4700720-00
Amount Due If Paid By 06/01/2020	**$47.64**
Amount Due If Paid After 06/01/2020	$57.17

PAT ERICKSON
10720 S KILPATRICK AVE
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE
PO BOX 6791
CAROL STREAM IL 60197-6791

040375000000047590

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 | January 2021

Tuesday, January 5

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

Wednesday, January 6

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

Tuesday, January 19

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

Wednesday, January 20

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

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.