City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

2021 SEASON UPDATES

Three Oaks Recreation Area staff is excited for the 2021 season! We hope park guests enjoy all the amenities the park has to offer this year. For your information, the Marina and Swim Beach will follow all guidelines from federal and state health agencies, including the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH). Any changes or updates will be posted on the Three Oaks Recreation Area website and Facebook page.

Marina

The Marina will tentatively open for the season at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

- The Marina will be open on weekends only in April from 6:30 a.m. to sunset.
- Only row boats will be available in April due to cold weather and water temperatures. We will have our full fleet of boats available at the Marina building beginning in May, when water temperatures warm up.

Swim Beach

The Swim Beach will tentatively open for the season on May 29, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Continued on page 4

Police Citizen **Survey** **Page 2**

Hydrant Flushing **Page 8**

Memorial Day **Page 10**

POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZEN SURVEY

The Crystal Lake Police Department is conducting a citizen survey to identify concerns about crime, police services, and how the City can best serve the needs of the community. Residents can complete the citizen survey via a link on both the City's website home page and the Police Department page. Both links will remain open through May 31, 2021 to allow residents to provide input and suggestions regarding police services. Surveys such as these are a useful tool for the Police Department, providing feedback to help improve police services provided to our residents.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK

On Saturday, April 17, 2021, the Crystal Lake Police Department will take part in the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Community Clean-Up Day event.

We will be collecting your old or unwanted prescription drugs* from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We will have a squad car parked in front of the Chamber building at McCormick Park, located at 427 W. Virginia Street.



The following items will not be accepted:

- Needles (sharps)
- Thermometers
- Inhalers
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Ointments, Lotions, or Liquids

*Prior to drop off, be sure to remove all labels or black out information containing name, phone number, address, and doctor's information with marker.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS POLAR PLUNGE

On Saturday, March 6, 2021, members of the Crystal Lake Police Department participated in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. With your help, we managed to raise over $8,000 for Special Olympics. Not only does the event raise awareness for Special Olympics Athletes, the fundraising helps athletes reach their dream of training and participating in the Special Olympics Summer Games. If you follow our page on Facebook, you will find the video of us taking the plunge at Main Beach.



Still want to donate? A donation of $20.00 or more will get you a Law Enforcement Torch Run Special Olympics t-shirt or hat. If making a donation by check, please make it payable to Special Olympics Illinois. For more information, contact Officer Sal Alfano at 815-444-5956 or via email at salfano@crystallake.org.

CAR SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS

Our certified child safety seat technicians are once again offering free child safety seat inspections to parents and caregivers. These are by appointment only and include educational service that will teach you how to properly install your child's safety seat. We request that you install the child safety seat prior to your appointment so we can inspect and/or correct and educate you. Surveys indicate that 90% of all child safety seats are not properly installed.

Please call the Police Department at (815) 356-3620 to schedule an inspection.



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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

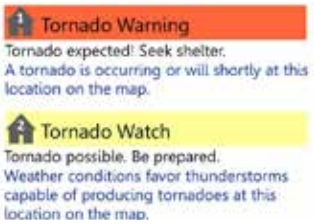
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

SPRING WEATHER SAFETY

It's 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 some 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.



STAY INFORMED: WEATHER RADIOS AND EMERGENCY ALERTS

Purchase an All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio available at most retailers or visit the below websites for more Emergency Alerting options:

- www.ready.gov/alerts
- www.nixle.com
- www.weather.gov/subscribe
- www.mchenryaware.com

CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

(continued from page 1)

2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Boat rentals are first come, first served. Advanced registration will not be taken.
- Social distancing measures are in place at the park.
- Watercraft other than those provided at the Marina are not allowed. This is to protect against any invasive species.
- The Scuba Zone will tentatively open in May.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Three Oaks Recreation Area is currently hiring lifeguards for the 2021 season. Applicants are not required to have American Red Cross Lifeguard Certification upon hire, but it must be obtained to begin the season. Please visit the City of Crystal Lake website at www.crystallake.org. Positions are listed under the Human Resources Department, Employment Opportunities.

PARK PARTNERS

While not open in April, you can reach out directly to our partners for information and reservations in 2021.

The Board House
(Stand-up Paddleboarding)
(847) 943-7043
www.alpineaccessories.com/theboardhouse.html

Quarry Cable Park
(Wakeboard Park)
(815) 893-0036
www.thequarrycablepark.com

The Cottage on the Beach
(Beach Concessions)
(815) 459-7520

PICTURE SUBMISSIONS

The City encourages park guests to submit pictures taken enjoying the park. With permission, submissions received will be featured on the Three Oaks Facebook page and in the City Newsletter.



Photo Credit: Nancy Loomis



Photo Credit: Alexandra Burke



Photo Credit: Luis Mendoza Lara

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!

THE QUARRY: UPCOMING EVENTS AND SUMMER FUN

We are excited for warmer weather, longer days and a fun-filled Spring and Summer at the "Q". We will kick off the first week of May with three NEW events! Join us on May 1, 2021 for our first ever Kentucky Derby Party. We will be serving delicious mint juleps, a variety of snacks, and have live music and more! You can dress to the nines in your best Derby Day attire and even compete in a best hat contest! May 4, 2021 is National Teacher's Day, and the Quarry will welcome the community to celebrate all our local teachers. Nominate your favorite teacher to win a special prize!

It will be another wonderful season on the lake with summer camps returning in June! Register your wakeboarder online now for our exciting wake-boarding camp that will teach the basics of wake-boarding on our 2.0 Cable System! The goal is for all campers to graduate to the Full Size Cable by the end of camp. Camp includes cable and land instruction, Quarry swag, lunch and a two-hour wakeboard admission wristband to use at a later date.

The Quarry also has two high-quality outdoor sand volleyball courts that can be reserved all season long. Whether you are interested in training, playing a recreational game with friends, or reserving one or two courts for a special event, the sand volleyball courts are available to rent by the hour. We also look forward to bringing back our Recreational Volleyball Leagues. We will have two sessions that each run six weeks and all matches will be played on Tuesday evenings. Our Baggo League will begin in May and run for 10 weeks. Register online at thequarrycablepark.com under the shop tab for Volleyball Leagues, Baggo Leagues and Wakeboard Summer Camps.









McCORMICK PARK WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Construction of the McCormick Park Water Main Improvement is underway.

The improvement includes:

- Upgrading water main along Pierson Street, Florence Street, McHenry Avenue between Lake Street and Route 14, and the intersection of McHenry Avenue and Route 14.
- Upgrading water main connections to the McCormick Park Water Tower.
- Pavement patching over the new water main.
- Resurfacing the intersection of McHenry Avenue and Route 14.

Anticipated Project Schedule:

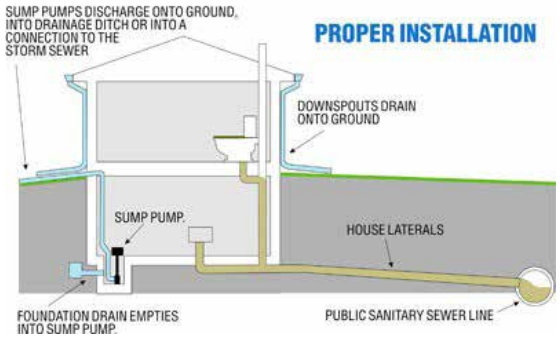
- **Mid-March through May:** New water main and water service installation along Pierson Street and Florence Street.
- **June:** Replacement of water main and services along McHenry Avenue and the intersection of Route 14. This work will primarily take place overnight to minimize disruption to traffic.
- **July:** All pavement patching, remaining restoration, landscaping, and other minor work.

The roadways will be open during construction and access to homes and businesses will be maintained. For project updates, visit www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/public-works/engineering/road-construction-projects/mccormick-park-area-water-main-replacement.



STORMWATER SUMP PUMP CONNECTIONS

The City is asking for help from its residents and business owners to disconnect all stormwater sump pump connections from our sanitary sewer system. Make sure that your stormwater sump pump is discharging to an approved connection and not your sanitary plumbing. If you are unsure and need assistance with identifying the connection point of your stormwater sump pump, then please feel free to contact the Public Works Water & Sewer Division at 815-356-3614.



YOU'VE GOT MAIL

BY DIANA KENNEY

The first post office was established in Crystal Lake in 1838. Citizens would go to the post office to collect their mail and post their letters. Although rural mail service started in 1902, mail delivery in the town limits didn't start until the 1920s.

Imagine the excitement in July, 1920 when the postmaster general declared Crystal Lake was now big enough to qualify for home mail delivery! But wait--there was a catch (there's always a catch, right?). The city had to complete three tasks before mail delivery would begin. And it would take a full year before these tasks were complete.

First, eliminate as many of the duplicate street names as possible and provide clear street signage at every intersection. Some examples of street name changes at this time include: Center Street became University Street (Smith & Hill's subdivision), South Railroad Street became Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake Street became Grant Street, Third Street (east of Main) became Illinois Street, and the list goes on and on!

Second, assign a logical numbering system so that each building had its own unique address. This included determining the center point for North/South Streets and East/West Streets. The center point determined was Crystal Lake Avenue and Walkup Avenue. The numbers were assigned in 20 foot increments, with odd numbers on the north and west sides of streets and even numbers on the south and east*. At each block, the numbers were to break at block end, starting up again with an even hundred at the beginning of the new block.

Third (and perhaps the most challenging), get the citizens to purchase and install a mail receptacle and affix address numbers (no less than 3" in height) to identify their building.



Postmaster Harry C. Shales

The postmaster at that time was Harry C. Shales. The city had 658 buildings slated for mail delivery. It was determined Shales would need to hire two full-time carriers to deliver and collect mail. The starting salary for these jobs was $1,000 per year. Out of ten applicants, Alfred Spangard and Ed Southern got the jobs.



Ed Southern and Al Spangard

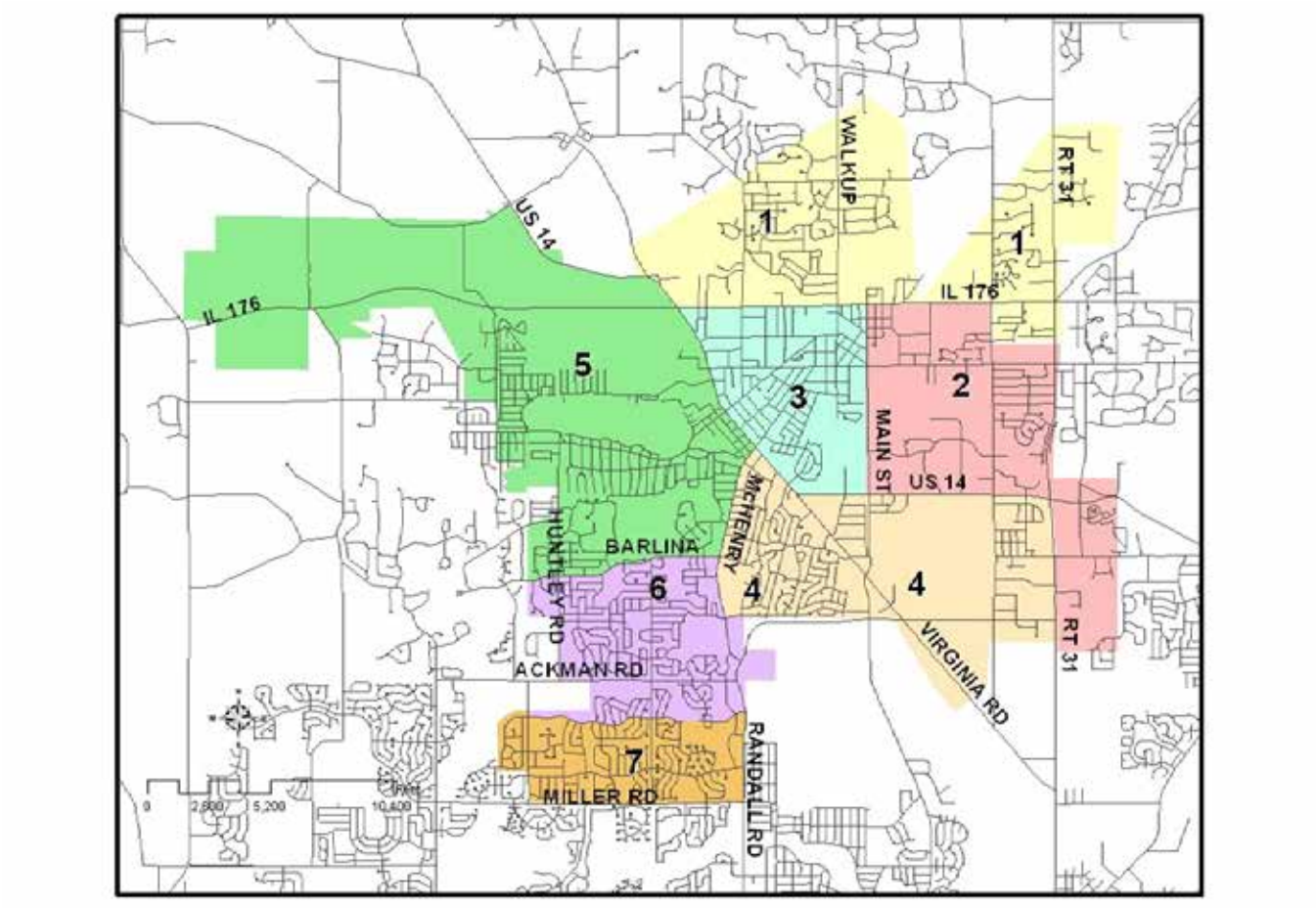
Alfred Spangard was born July 19, 1895 in Yorkville, IL. He was a WWI veteran, serving in the U.S. Army. Al married Katherine Nelson in 1919. Spangard was an active member of the William Chandler Peterson American Legion Post and a charter member of the Crystal Lake Moose Lodge #1188. Al and Katherine Spangard raised two sons and a daughter in their home on Main Street. Alfred retired in 1952. He died May 9, 1966.

Ed Southern was born in 1873. In 1898, Ed enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 1st Illinois Infantry during the Spanish-American War. After the war, he married Ellen Stenquist in Chicago and went to work for the Post Office. Ed transferred to the Crystal Lake Post Office in the 1920s to become one of the first letter carriers. The Southern's lived on Crystal Lake Avenue with their two sons. When he retired in 1934, Ed was asked, "how many miles do you figure you have walked on mail routes?" Ed replied, "I haven't the slightest idea, but I must have walked around the world 10 times!" Ed Southern died December 13, 1959.

*Author's Note: The address numbering system changed again in the 1950s, which always causes confusion for those trying to research the history of their property.

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.

SPRING 2021 FULL SYSTEM HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE*



SECTION 2 – MARCH 29TH – APRIL 2ND
South of Route 176 to Route 14
East of Main Street to Route 31 (South of Crystal Lake Avenue)
East of Route 31 and South of Route 14 to Walmart

SECTION 3 – APRIL 5TH – APRIL 9TH
South of Route 176 to Route 14
East of Route 14 to Main Street

SECTION 4 – APRIL 12TH – APRIL 16TH
South of Route 14, East of McHenry Avenue to Route 31

SECTION 5 – APRIL 19TH – APRIL 23RD
West of Route 14 and McHenry Avenue North of Barlina Road

SECTION 6 – APRIL 26TH – APRIL 30TH
South of Barlina Road to Alexandra Boulevard
West of McHenry Avenue and West of Randall Road

SECTION 7 – MAY 3RD – MAY 7TH
South of Alexandra Boulevard to Miller Road
West of Randall Road

*Subject to weather conditions

WATER AND SEWER BILL PAYMENTS BY PHONE

The City of Crystal Lake is excited to announce the option to pay your water and sewer bill using a secure automated phone system. For your convenience, payments can be made using an E-check or credit card, with no additional service fees to you. The only information you need is your water and sewer bill account number and your payment. Simply call (888) 676-4106 and use your telephone keypad to answer the prompts. For additional information, contact the City of Crystal Lake Finance Department at (815) 459-2020 or via email at finance@crystallake.org.

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY – APRIL 17, 2021

Community Clean-Up Day this year will be a bit different, but our parks still need cleaning! We are hopeful to have the usual celebration in 2022 where volunteers enjoy breakfast and lunch at McCormick Park!

This year, participants will register with the Crystal Lake Park District at www.crystallakeparks.org to choose a park to clean.

- Starting April 1, 2021, garbage bags and gloves can be picked up at the Crystal Lake Park District Nature Center at 330 N. Main Street. The Nature Center is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Corporate Challenge: The business with the most participants will receive a prize!
- Participants are encouraged to clean designated parks from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

As part of Community Clean-Up Day, the Crystal Lake Chamber will host Prescription Drug Take-Back and Document Shredding from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Customers can bring up to two banker boxes of paper documents. Please remove all spiral bindings, metal strips, and large clips. This will take place at:.

Crystal Lake Chamber 9:00 a.m. – noon
McCormick Park
427 W. Virginia Street

This FREE event is rain or shine. Contact the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce at 815-459-1300. or visit clchamber.com for more information.

CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE BRUSH DROP-OFF

The City's Brush Drop-Off Site, located at 410 S. Main Street, is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., April through November. The first drop-off opportunity is Saturday, April 3, 2021.

Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or vehicle sticker is required to drop-off brush at the site.

In addition, brush must be six inches or less in diameter and six feet or less in length to be accepted. Other, materials, such as bagged leaves and grass, cannot be accepted at the site. Please contact your waste collection company if you have other materials that need disposal.

Please maintain social distancing guidelines if you are dropping off brush. If you are interacting with staff, please wear a mask.

Additional information regarding annual brush collection will be provided in the May Newsletter.

2021 Brush Drop-Off Dates*

April 3	April 17
May 1	May 15
June 5	June 19
July 3	July 17
August 7	August 21
September 4	September 18
October 2	October 16
November 6	November 20

*Dates subject to change, notifications will be provided

YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS APRIL 5, 2021

Yard waste/food scrap compost will be picked up by Prairieland Disposal once-a-week, on your regular pick-up day beginning Monday, April 5, 2021.

Unbundled Waste
Yard waste is collected on the same day as your refuse pickup.
We will accept food scraps in yard waste. Leaves, grass, twigs and branches too small to bundle may be placed in a paper bag, box or disposal container and may not exceed 50 pounds in weight. Loose piles of grass or other waste will not be accepted.

Bundled Waste
Tree and shrub limbs must be bundled with biodegradable string or twine. Wire, tape or plastic are unacceptable binding materials. Bundles may not exceed four feet in length and two feet in diameter.

For additional information regarding yard waste collection, please contact Prairieland Disposal at 847-381-9300 or visit www.prairielanddisposal.com/residential-services/

Crystal Lake American Legion Post 171

Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service

May 31, 2021



The City of Crystal Lake remains hopeful that this year's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 31, 2021. If the event occurs, it will be held according to guidelines issued by state and local health agencies.

Typically, the parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at Central High School and runs east on Franklin Avenue, north on Williams Street, and west on Woodstock Street to Union Cemetery, where a Memorial Service is held.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the application below, and return to Melanie Nebel at the City of Crystal Lake by email at mnebel@crystallake.org, by fax at (815) 356-3780 or by mail at:

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

If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Nebel at (815) 459-2020.

As a reminder, the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service is a solemn event intended to honor veterans and those who have given their lives for their country. Please do not distribute candy or fliers during the parade and please keep marching units and floats consistent with the nature of this event.

APPLICATION

VETERANS

Name of Individual/Group: _____

Contact Person:_____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Branch of Service: _____

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person:_____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Unit: _____ # of Participants: _____

Indemnity/Hold Harmless For Use of City-Owned Property
To the fullest extent permitted by law, the undersigned hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees, against all injuries, deaths, loss, damages, claims, suits, liabilities, judgments, cost and expenses (including attorney fees), which may in anyway accrue against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees arising in whole or part or in consequence of the use of City-owned property by the undersigned, its employees, agents, subcontractors and/or 3rd party, or which may in anyway result therefore, except that arising out of the sole legal cause of the City of Crystal Lake, its agents or employees. The User of City-owned property shall, at its own expense, appear, defend and pay all charges of attorneys and all costs and other expenses arising therefore or incurred in connections therewith, and, if any judgment shall be rendered against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, in any such action, the User shall, at its own expense, satisfy and discharge the same.

Agreed this _____ day of _____, 20_____

_____ _____
(Signature of User) (Please Print Name)

FREDDY'S FROZEN CUSTARD & STEAKBURGERS: NOW OPEN!

Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, located at 5500 Northwest Highway in the Bohl Farm Marketplace, is now open! Freddy's is a fast casual restaurant new to McHenry County that specializes in various sandwiches, burgers and hot dogs that are cooked to order, as well as frozen custard.

REMINDER: PET WASTE CLEAN UP

Do you scoop the poop? Please clean up after your pets. Pet waste doesn't just decompose, it actually adds harmful bacteria and nutrients to local waters when it's not properly disposed. When pet waste ends up in water bodies, it releases nutrients that cause excessive growth of algae and weeds. It contributes to making water murky, green, smelly and even unusable for swimming, boating and fishing. So please, pick up after your pet and throw their waste in the garbage. Every little bit helps!

DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE: BUTTERFLY PARK

Join us this spring in Butterfly Park (aka Depot Park) by the downtown train station. The trees and gazebo will be adorned with wooden butterflies decorated by the public. Experience the beauty and wonder of Butterfly Park from mid-April until the end of May. This will truly be a magical experience! For additional information, please visit: www.DowntownCL.org.



CALENDAR | April 2021



Tuesday, April 6
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

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

Tuesday, April 20
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, April 21
- 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

Commercial use or reproduction of any material contained in this newsletter is prohibited without permission of the City of Crystal Lake.

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Crystal Lake, IL
Permit No. 29

Go green by signing up for the City's Newsletter electronically.

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.