City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER





JOHNNY APPLESEED TRADITION CONTINUES

BY DIANA KENNEY

The legend of Johnny Appleseed has been alive in Downtown Crystal Lake since the early 1990s, and this year's event on Saturday, September 25th promises to be one of the best yet! Thousands of families attend the festival to celebrate the season, community, and enjoy a variety of apple-flavored delights. The event is held outdoors and is located throughout downtown.

The festival is named in honor of the historic orchardist and nurseryman, John Chapman, who was born in September, 1774. John Chapman obtained seeds at no charge from Pennsylvania cider mills and headed west to the frontier sowing the apple seeds to form orchards and establish nurseries. He soon became known as "Johnny Appleseed."

Historic records indicate John Chapman was an animal rights activist, vegetarian, and a member of the Church of Swedenborg. He never touched tea, coffee, or tobacco; and never carried a gun. John Chapman would spread his philosophy along with his apple seeds from Massachusetts to Pennsylvania, Ohio and into the Midwest.

The Rambo Apple, developed in France in the late 1700s became one of Johnny's favorites because of its many uses and good flavor. On September 30, 2007, a certified Johnny Appleseed Rambo Apple Tree, propogated by a graft taken from a 140 year old apple tree planted in Ohio by John Chapman was generously donated by Countryside Flowershop and Nursery and planted at the historic Colonel Palmer House. The tree was obtained from Silver Creek Nurseries in Wisconsin, a certified grower and distributor of varieties offered in the Famous and Historic Tree Program.

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September 11th Commemoration

Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste

New Businesses

POLICE DEPARTMENT

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!

National Night Out was a complete success! Downtown Crystal Lake was such a fun location and we cannot thank all of the businesses and agencies enough for your participation. We really want to thank all of you for coming out and making this National Night Out the best one yet!



CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

When it comes to child safety, it is better to be safe than sorry. Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week highlights the importance of ensuring that all children are properly secured in an appropriate car seat or seatbelt. A child's age, weight, and height can all play a factor when determining proper safety harnesses, so it's important to keep up with all current regulations and suggestions. September 19-25, 2021 is dedicated to all things related to child passenger safety.

Feel free to contact the Police Department if you need your car seat inspected.



STOP. TRAINS CAN'T.

Throughout the United States, injuries and deaths occur at rail crossings every day. Most of these tragedies are preventable. Although highway rail crossing incidents and fatalities declined dramatically for decades, the number of drivers going around lowered gates has increased in recent years. Even in an emergency, some trains can take a mile or more to stop.

Here are 7 Steps for Navigating Freight and Commuter Train Crossings:

1. Stop, look both ways, and listen. Remember that trains always have the right of way.
2. Make sure you have room to get across. Once you enter the crossing, keep moving.
3. Stop 15 feet away from flashing red lights, lowered gates, a signaling flagman or a stop sign.
4. Never try to drive around a lowering gate. Never ignore signals, and always use caution.
5. Before you begin to cross, wait for gates to fully rise and for all lights to stop flashing.
6. Never assume that there is only one train coming from a single direction.
7. If your car stalls on a rail track, quickly get everyone out – even if you don't see a train coming.



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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH!

Disasters can strike at any time without warning. It is important to have an "Emergency Preparedness Plan" in place for you and your family in case a disaster arises. These plans should be updated and reviewed annually.



To learn how to make a plan and build a preparedness kit, visit www.ready.gov.

SAVE THE DATE!
What: CLFRD Annual Fire Prevention Week Open House
When: Saturday, October 9, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Where: Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Station 1, 100 W. Woodstock St.



Like and follow Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department on Facebook for all the latest updates!

20TH ANNIVERSARY SEPTEMBER 11TH COMMEMORATION AND PATRIOT DAY

American Legion Post 171 will be hosting a 20th Anniversary September 11th Commemoration and Patriot Day event on Saturday, September 11, 2021 at Union Cemetery. The event will begin at noon and last for approximately one hour. The event will feature keynote speaker Ryan Yantis, Lt. Col. US Army (ret.), decorated 9 11 Pentagon survivor.

A Day to Remember

20th Anniversary
September 11th
Commemoration
And
Patriot Day

Keynote Speaker
Ryan Yantis, Lt. Col. US Army (ret.)
Decorated 9 11 Pentagon Survivor

Saturday Sept. 11
Noon
Union Cemetery
Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake



Sponsored by CL American Legion
&
City of Crystal Lake



www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionCrystalLake/

CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

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Once a year, Johnny Appleseed returns to share his folklore and stories with the children of Crystal Lake at the Johnny Appleseed Festival. But Johnny's legend lives on year-round at the Colonel Palmer House where a genuine Johnny Appleseed Tree has its roots planted firmly in the ground.

For additional information about the Johnny Appleseed Festival, visit www.DowntownCL.org

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.

Marie Wilt, Johnny Appleseed, Mike Tryon, Richard Harms, and Maureen Mikyska help plant the apple tree-2007
Johnny Appleseed Tree at Colonel Palmer House-2021

REFUSE, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE UPDATE

Prairieland Disposal has been purchased by GFL Environmental, Inc., a national waste collection company. Residents will receive information from GFL Environmental and Prairieland Disposal regarding new billing information this month. Quarterly invoices will be sent by GFL Environmental for the next billing cycle on October 1, 2021. The monthly rates for refuse, recycling and yard waste collection will remain unchanged.

Residents who have set up automatic payments will need to re-enroll with GFL Environmental. Residents may also pay bills online using the GFL Environmental account number, which will be provided by GFL in September.

For any service or billing related issues, please contact GFL Environmental at (847) 381-9300.

CURBSIDE ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 13-17, 2021

GFL Environmental will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of September 13 - 17, 2021. Residents may set out a maximum of five (5) electronic items, including a limit of one (1) TV or one (1) computer monitor. The electronics will be collected on the resident's regularly scheduled collection day. GFI Environmental will conduct the next electronics collection week in March 2022.

The following items may and may not be set out for electronics collection:

Accepted Electronics Items	Items NOT Accepted
One Television or One Computer Monitor	Air Conditioners
Cell Phones, Telephones and Tablets	Appliances
Cameras	Batteries
CD Players	Battery Operated Children's Toys
Computer Drives	Coffee Makers
Cords and Cables	Computer Disks
Electronics Mice and Keyboards	Dishwashers
Fax Machines and Printers	Hair Dryers and Hair Irons
Holiday Lights	Humidifiers
Modems	Liquid or Chemical Waste
Paper Shredders	Microwave Ovens
Satellite Receivers	Packaging Materials
Scanners	Refrigerators
Stereos	Smoke and Fire Detectors
Video Game Consoles	Water Softeners

Please contact GFI Environmental at (847) 381-9300 with any questions regarding the electronics collection event.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

How do I participate in the brush drop-off program?
The Brush Drop-Off Site is located at 410 S. Main Street in Crystal Lake. 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 you used twine to bind the brush during transport, you must remove the twine once you get to the site. Once closed for the season, this site will not reopen until the 1st Saturday in April.

Remaining 2021 Brush Drop-Off Site Dates
September 4
September 18
October 2
October 16
November 6
November 16

How do I dispose of my leaves/yard waste/pet waste?
If you are a GFL Environmental 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 or garbage cans (not exceeding 50 pounds) 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 GFL Environmental's recycling program can be found at: https://www.prairielanddisposal.com/crystal-lakes-important-info-r.pdf.

Please also note, the City Code prohibits you from intentionally blowing or raking, etc. 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 GFL Environmental. Leaves in bio-degradable paper bags will be collected from the first Monday in October through the second Friday in December. Acceptable containers for leaf collection include:

- Biodegradable leaf bags (no exceeding 50 pounds)
- Yard waste totes provided by GFL Environmental or resident-owned yard waste bins clearly marked for leaf disposal only.

Leaves in plastic bags will not be collected, as they cannot be composted.

STORM DRAIN CLEARING ASSISTANCE

The City of Crystal Lake maintains the stormwater sewer system, which is separate from the sanitary sewer system (indoor sinks, toilets, etc.) The sanitary sewer system drains to a wastewater treatment plant while the stormwater system drains to area streams, rivers, and lakes.

Storm sewer drains or grates are part of the storm system and are designed to trap and prevent debris from entering the water systems downstream. While Public Works staff work to clean and clear these grates, homeowners are encouraged to keep storm sewer grates in front of their property clear of debris. This includes litter, branches, snow, and leaves; which are especially common during the fall season. Please use caution! Do not put your feet or hands into the storm drain because dangerous debris could collect there. Also do not try to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate.

Clearing the grates will also help to ensure localized street flooding does not occur. If you have any questions or would like the Public Works Department to clear a storm sewer drain, please call 815-356-3614. The Public Works Department thanks you for keeping our streets safe and clear!



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

SEPTEMBER HOURS OF OPERATION

Park Hours: 6:30 a.m. to Sunset daily

August 23 - September 3:
Swim Beach: Closed Monday through Friday, Open Saturday and Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Marina: Closed Monday through Friday, Open Saturday and Sunday noon to Sunset

September 4 - 6:
Swim Beach: Open Saturday through Monday, 10:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.
Marina: Open Saturday through Monday, noon – Sunset

After September 6:
Beach: Closed for season
Marina: Weekends only (Saturday and Sunday) 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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: Trish Fetherling



Photo Credit: Sara Joswiak

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!

NEW BUSINESSES

Little Rice is the newest Asian fusion restaurant to open in Crystal Lake featuring sushi, hibachi, ramen and traditional stone pot rice entrees. Available for delivery, take-out and catering at 1024 S. McHenry Avenue.

Grounds Coffee Bar expanded and relocated to a new location at 89 N. Williams Street. Still offering the same great coffee, bubble tea and pastries, but now with a large indoor seating area with spaces for individuals to plug-in and work alongside comfy seating areas for those looking to socialize. Open daily from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Moontime Smokin' Que is now open at 88 Railroad Street. Previously located in Ralph's General Store, Moontime recently expanded and is now a full service sit-down BBQ restaurant. Serving up a wide range of smoked meats including beef brisket, chicken, pulled pork, pork tenderloin, baby back and St. Louis style ribs seasoned up with homemade sauces and signature sides all made from scratch. Moontime is currently open on the weekends for take-out. Visit their Facebook page for hours of operation.

CRYSTAL LAKE BIKE SHARE PROGRAM

Hop on a bike and enjoy what Crystal Lake has to offer! Three Oaks Recreation Area, Main Beach, Veteran Acres Park, shopping, and dining opportunities are just a short ride away. Bikes are located at the Downtown Metra station. For more information go to https://www.crystallake.org/our-community/green-initiatives/bike-share.



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Install a water-efficient shower head (2.5 gallons or less per minute).
- Run only full loads in the washing machine or dishwasher.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- Purchase an energy star rated washing machine.

CALENDAR | September 2021

Monday, September 6
- City Offices Closed for Labor Day

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

Wednesday, September 8
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Saturday, September 11
- 9 11 20th Anniversary Commemoration & Patriot Day, Noon (Union Cemetery)

Tuesday, September 21
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, September 22
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:00 p.m. (City Hall)

City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

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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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.