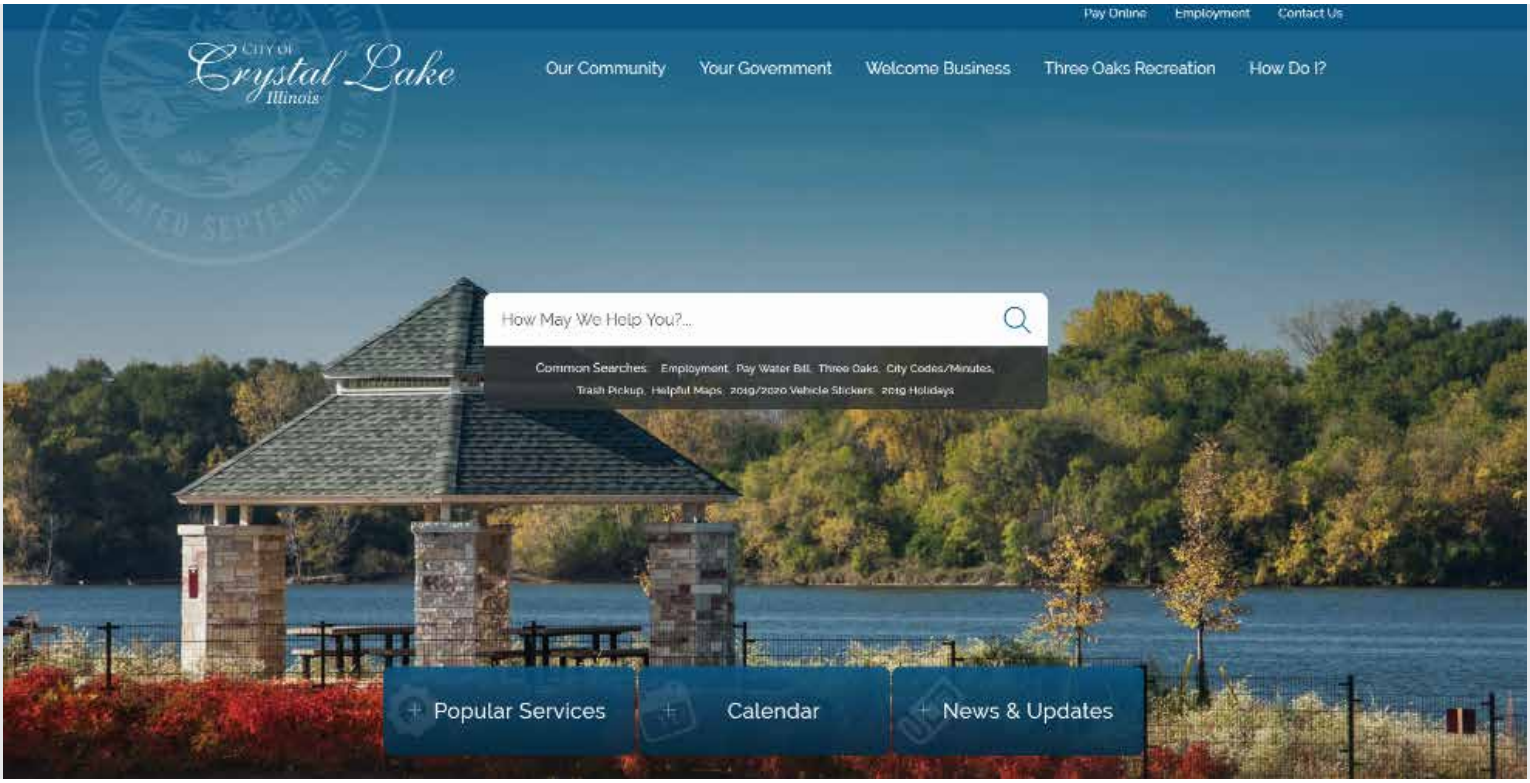
City of Crystal Lake, Illinois CITYLETTER



CONNECT WITH THE CITY - ONLINE SERVICES

The City of Crystal Lake website offers many helpful features, such as our search bar on the home screen to help you find what you are looking for. Go to www.crystallake.org to stay up-to-date on City news, employment opportunities, construction updates, available business sites, future meetings, and so much more!

Make a Request on Citizen Support Center

The City's Citizen Support Center is an excellent tool for residents to find information, make requests, and ask questions online. Residents can easily report concerns, such as a tree down in the street, traffic, potholes, insect issues, and more. Go to www.crystallake.org, and click on "Our Community"; under "Our Community", click on "Citizen Support Center".



In addition, updates about the City's road construction projects are online. If you want to know about detour routes, construction announcements, and/or project descriptions, visit www.crystallake.org/roadconstruction.

Festival of Lights Parade

911 Tips

Fall Leaf Pick-up Program

POLICE DEPARTMENT

THANKSGIVING SAFETY

Thanksgiving is known to be one of the most traveled holiday periods in the year. The Crystal Lake Police Department would like to remind you to plan ahead during this Thanksgiving week. Wednesday, November 24th, the day before Thanksgiving, is known to be "Blackout Wednesday". It is 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 throughout the Thanksgiving week. Be safe and help keep others safe. Also, buckle up and don't text and drive.

MARINE CORPS RESERVE TOYS FOR TOTS

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

Now through Monday, December 21, 2021 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.



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

9-1-1, WHAT IS THE ADDRESS OF THE EMERGENCY?

"9-1-1, what is the address of the emergency?" This is the first question that public safety telecommunicators from Southeast Emergency Communications (SEECOM) will ask when your 9-1-1 telephone call is answered. Without an accurate location, it is very difficult to get first responders to the right location in a timely manner, and seconds save lives. Only use 9-1-1 in an emergency situation which requires immediate police, fire or medical assistance.

In the event you are in doubt whether your situation is an emergency, you are encouraged to call 9-1-1 and allow the public safety telecommunicators the opportunity assist you. If you happen to dial in error, do not hang up. Please simply stay on the line and inform the telecommunicator of the error. This will save a tremendous amount of time and resources in trying to determine if the hang up was a caller in need. That time will allow them to devote to other calls which could be for an actual emergency.

When you call 9-1-1, the telecommunicator will often have numerous questions for you. This allows them to update the responders and ensure you are getting the help you need. This is especially critical in medical situations and they can walk you through steps to perform CPR, clear airways and even deliver a baby prior to the paramedics arriving. Rest assured, that in most instances, while they are asking you questions one of their partners is sending the necessary help.

Here are some helpful tips when calling 9-1-1:

- Do not hang up until your call is answered and the information you have is correctly relayed to the public safety telecommunicator.
- Remain calm while on the phone so the first responders can understand and relay the vital information you are providing.
- Provide an exact address if possible, or the closest intersection. If all else fails, landmarks or business names can be helpful to the responders.
- It is helpful to know your phone number, to give to the call taker.
- Please do not allow your children to play with old cell phones. Even without active service, they can still dial 9-1-1 and tie up critical resources.
- Teach your children your address and phone number(s) at an early age.

Continued on page 3

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

9-1-1 continued from page 2

Did you know?

- Over 80% of 9-1-1 calls received by SEECOM are from cellular phones. Depending on the phone, the carrier and your location (inside or outside a dwelling) it can take some time to determine a proximate dispatchable location.
- SEECOM staff receives over 600 hours of initial training to become a public safety telecommunicator including specialized training in providing emergency medical instructions which allow them to provide critical first aid instructions via the phone before the responders arrive on scene.
- Currently texting to 9-1-1 is not accessible in McHenry County, but plans to implement in early 2022 are in process.
- Smart911 is a free, private, and secure method to assist first responders with visual details on an emergency location helps facilitate faster response, as does information on access points like hidden driveways or gate codes. You can add key information about members of your household that would help anyone you care for in the event of an emergency, whether the call is from the home or any mobile phone. You can also add as much or as little information about your vehicles, pets, service animals, along with any special notes that you would want responders to know. No matter where you or your loved ones are, you can always have peace of mind that responders will know any critical medical condition and how to help before they even arrive. Smart911 is free to all citizens. Please visit www.smart911.com for more information.

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

THANKSGIVING 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.
- Have activities like games or puzzles to keep children busy while you are cooking.
- 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: *www.nfpa.org*

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS & CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES!

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 7, 2021.

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

Smoke alarm batteries 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*

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours: Open daily 6:30 a.m. to sunset year-round.

Park Trails: 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 cooler temperatures will bring many changing colors at the park this fall. The City encourages residents to submit their favorite photos taken at the park this year. Whether it is a photo of wildlife, changing leaf colors, caught fish, or even Halloween costumes worn at the park, the City is always accepting photos from park guests. Submissions received by park guests are featured in the Newsletter.



Photo Credit: Donna Bieschke



Photo Credit: Alexandra Burke

PAVILION RENTALS

The pavilion rental portal will open on January 3, 2022 to allow rentals for the 2022 season. All pavilion rentals are first-come first-served, so be sure to plan your 2022 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!

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS PARADE

Friday, November 26th at 7:00 p.m.
Visit www.DowntownCL.org for parade route and details

The Festival of Lights Parade is the traditional start to the holiday season when Santa Claus comes to town! This is the only nighttime parade in Crystal Lake. Thousands of people line the parade route to watch the extraordinary floats, entertainment, musical and community groups light up the streets of Downtown Crystal Lake. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be waving and greeting spectators from their decorated float at the end of the parade.

After the parade is over, Santa will start his visits with children at his house in Brink Street Market. Safety precautions will be put in place to keep everyone healthy this holiday season.



HOUSE CALLS

BY DIANA KENNEY

Who's old enough to remember when doctors made house calls? Chances are, several readers are nodding their heads. But, who remembers doctors who made house calls with a horse and buggy? Not many, I'm sure.

The house at 102 Minnie Street was once home to pioneer physician, Dr. L.D. Lowell and family, while the intact carriage barn behind the house was home to the doctor's trusty horse, "Old Billy". Together, Dr. Lowell and "Old Billy" made house calls.

Lorenzo Dow Lowell was born July 19, 1836 in Montgomery County, New York. In 1845, his parents moved the family to a farm in Walworth County, Wisconsin. At age 21, Lorenzo had completed his education, moved off the farm and began teaching first at a school in Harvard, Illinois and then in Sharon, Wisconsin. While in Sharon, Lorenzo began the study of medicine with Dr. Reuben Wilson, with whom he practiced for two years.

On July 2, 1862, Lorenzo married Sarah Miller of Clinton, Wisconsin. The couple then moved to Crystal Lake where Lorenzo practiced medicine under the guidance of Dr. Emory Ballou. In 1863 and 1864 Lorenzo attended Rush Medical College in Chicago, received his credentials, and set down roots in our community.



Dr. Lorenzo Dow Lowell
Photo provided by
Beatrice Lowell Wimple
Printed in An American Story
By David T. Lowell

The Ballou-Lowell medical practice was based in the Village of Crystal Lake (the area that runs along Route 14/Virginia Street). Lorenzo and Sarah Lowell had five children (born between 1863 and 1881). Although they had a home in town on Van Buren Street, the Lowells wanted their children to have the experience of living in the country. They purchased farmland in Algonquin Township, just south of Crystal Lake. The Lowell children spent most of their childhood years on the farm.

By 1892, Dr. Lowell decided it was time to move back into town. The family retained ownership of the farm, but found living in town was much more convenient. The Lowell family decided to move to Nunda (today's Downtown Crystal Lake), purchasing a lot on Minnie Street with the intent to build a new house. Their beautiful Queen Anne-styled home was completed in late 1893 and features prominent cross gables with complex intersecting roofs and a square tower. Patterned shingles at each gable and bay windows(s) are used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance. The prominent bay window in front features decorative brackets and a stained glass transom. The Queen Anne style of architecture is all about adding lots of decorative details.



Lowell House, 102 Minnie Street

At the back of the property a carriage barn was also built. The two-story structure features a hip roof and second floor hay doors. The barn was plenty big to shelter Dr. Lowell's buggy and beloved horse, "Old Billy".

Life was hard in those days. No telephones, bad roads and poor communication made notifying the doctor and getting help a real challenge. Once notified, it was a hardship for the doctor to get to his patient in time to make a difference. Payment to the doctor for his services was often made in the form of chickens or produce when funds were scarce.

Dr. Lowell's granddaughter, Beatrice Lowell Wimple, shared her story of riding with her grandfather on several of his house calls. Her mother would pack a lunch for them both, as it was certain to be a long day. Dr. Lowell was always tired. On the return trip he would wind the reins around the dashboard and fall asleep. Beatrice said she was petrified with the two them being alone in the country, miles from home. But "Old Billy" always got them home safely.

Dr. Lowell died at his home on July 13, 1907. The cause of death was dropsy (today known as congestive heart failure). A funeral service was held in Nunda. His body was then taken by train to Sharon, Wisconsin where he is buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

With the death of Dr. Lowell, followed five months later by the death of Dr. Ballou, the end of an era of horse and buggy house calls was also coming to an end in Crystal Lake and Nunda.

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

Annual Fall Leaf Pick-Up Program

The City's Annual Fall Leaf Pick-up Program continues until the second Friday in December. GFL Environmental (formerly Prairieland Disposal) is the City's contracted service provider for this program. GFL Environmental crews will collect bagged leaves placed at the curbside in front of residential homes along public streets. Bags must be placed in the parkway before 7:00 a.m. on residents' regular refuse collection day.

Instructions

Leaves must be placed in biodegradable paper bags or resident-owned waste bids clearly marked for leaf disposal only in order to be collected. Paper leaf bags are available at local grocery and hardware stores. The City and GFL Environmental do not provide leaf bags.

There is a 50 pound maximum weight limit per bag. Leaves placed in the other containers such as plastic bags, garbage cans or boxes, or in bags too large for one person to handle will not be accepted.

Leaf Blowing in Public Streets Prohibited

As a reminder, blowing leaves into public roadways is a violation of the City Code and can create hazardous road conditions for motorists. Please keep our roadways safe by properly disposing of leaves through the Annual Fall Leaf Pickup Program.

Blocked Storm Drains

If you notice a storm drain blocked by debris, please clear the debris and dispose of the organic parts with your yard waste, and any garbage with your refuse. If you know of a blocked storm drain that you are unable to clear, please call Public Works at 815-356-3614 before the next rain event, so crews can clear the drain.

Grass in the Roadway

As a reminder, according to City Code, grass clippings and other yard waste are considered litter, and since mowing/blowing grass into the roadway is a hazard and can blocks storm drains, it is prohibited. All mower discharges must be pointed back onto the lawn, not towards the road. Do not use a leaf blower, broom, or other device to blow or sweep cut grass into the roadway. Thanks for helping to keep our roadways safe!





WATER BILL RATE CHANGE

In November, residents will see a small change to the amounts charged for water and sewer on their monthly utility bills. In April, the City Council approved a water and sewer user fee increase of 3% as part of the 2021/2022 fiscal year budget. The last increase to the City's water and sewer rates was in May 2019. The first monthly bill impacted by the increase will be the November bill which reflects September water consumption. Even with the increase, these rates continue to remain near the mid-point when compared to neighboring communities.

	Previous	New	Difference
Water Rate			
Monthly service charge	$7.57	$7.80	$0.23
Each 1,000 gallons	$5.16	$5.31	$0.15
Sewer Rate			
Monthly service charge	$9.03	$9.30	$0.27
Each 1,000 gallons	$5.17	$5.32	$0.15

The senior citizen discount will remain at 20% on the first 5,000 gallons used each month.

So what will this increase look like for the average utility customer?

Average Monthly Consumption	Previous Monthly Bill	New Monthly Bill	Difference
4,000 gallons per month	$57.92	$59.62	$1.70
10,000 gallons per month	$119.90	$123.40	$3.50

The City of Crystal Lake uses these user fees to fund its water and wastewater operations, including its four water treatment plants and two wastewater treatment facilities as well as its network of water mains, sanitary sewers and storm sewers. If residents have questions about their utility bills, please contact the City's Finance Department at 815-459-2020 or email finance@crystallake.org.

NEW BUSINESSES

Jalsa Bar & Restaurant- 1295 Randall Road, Unit 112

A progressive Indian restaurant & cocktail bar serving traditional Indian dishes, plenty of vegetarian options and a number of South Asian inspired dishes. Now open for dine-in or take-out every day from 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE! 10TH ANNUAL SANTA RUN FOR KIDS

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The 10th Annual McHenry County Santa Run For Kids will be held at The Raue Center for the Arts on December 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Funds raised support children of McHenry County. All proceeds go to organizations that assist our County's kids: Turning Point, Girls on the Run of NW Illinois, CASA of McHenry County, Kiwanis, Main Stay Therapeutic Farm, and Big Brothers, Big Sisters. When you register for the 5K Run or Walk, you get your very own Santa suit to wear.



What a fantastic way to kick off December! Please visit mchenrycountysantarun.com for sign-up information. We look forward to seeing you at the McHenry County Santa Run For Kids!

STORMWATER TIP: BE SALT SMART

Excess road salt damages vehicles and infrastructure, harms our pets and plants, and degrades our rivers and wetlands. Follow these steps to be salt smart at your house. Shovel first before the snow turns to ice. If you do need salt, use it sparingly. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt should be enough for 500 square feet of driveway or about 10 sidewalk squares. Be sure to spread the salt evenly and not in clumps.

CALENDAR | November 2021

Tuesday, November 2

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

Wednesday, November 3

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

Thursday, November 11

- City Offices closed for Veterans Day

Tuesday, November 16

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

Wednesday, November 17

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

Thursday, November 25
Friday, November 26

- City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving



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
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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.