City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



RENT A PAVILION, SUMMER 2022 WILL BE HERE SOON

All pavilions are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Your pavilion will not officially be reserved until it has been approved by City 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.

How To Reserve A Pavilion

Visit our website at www.crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation/pavilion-rentals and click on the Online Rental Portal link.

1. Create an account on the portal.
2. Check pavilion availability through the portal calendar and submit a request for your pavilion rental.
3. Once staff has approved your request, you can make your full payment online within 24 hours to secure your reservation.

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.

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PAVILIONS AVAILABLE TO RENT



Pavilion A:
Picnic Grove



Pavilion B:
Island Pavilion



Pavilion C:
Volleyball Court



Pavilion D:
North Lake Pavilion



Lakehouse Patio:
After Labor Day Only

JOIN THE TEAM!

Applications are being accepted to join us this upcoming 2022 season! Seasonal Lifeguards, Cashiers/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
Information Line: (815) 356-2447 Rainout Line: (815) 506-9333

POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLAR PLUNGE

The Polar Plunge to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois is back! You may have seen our video on Facebook from last year's plunge where officers got bold and got cold at Main Beach. This year we are at it again. If you would like to donate, contribute to our Polar Plunge or donate to Special Olympics Illinois, visit our Facebook page or contact Officer Sal Alfano at salfano@crystallake.org. Time and date for the event is to be determined.

The Crystal Lake Police Department would like to wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year! We want to thank all of you for your continued support and contributions.



AVOID LEAVING YOUR VEHICLE RUNNING AND UNATTENDED

Did you know it is illegal to leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running and the key in the ignition? This is to protect you from vehicle thefts. With freezing temperatures returning, warming up your car seems like a good idea, but be sure to do the following before you leave it unattended:

- Lock your vehicle, set the alarm, and take all keys or fobs with you.
- Do not leave the garage door opener in the vehicle.
- Do not leave your registration papers in your vehicle. Instead take a picture of it and store it in your phone.
- Never leave a car unlocked and running to warm it up or while stopping for a quick warm cup of coffee.

It only takes a moment for the opportunistic thief to jump inside and drive off.

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

SLIDE ON INTO



DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE'S SLIDEWALK SALES

DON'T LET THE WINTER WEATHER STOP YOU FROM ENJOYING FABULOUS BARGAINS AT MANY OF YOUR FAVORITE DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE RETAILERS.

RUN, SLIDE, SKATE OR SKI INTO DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE'S SLIDEWALK SALES!

JANUARY 13, 14, 15 (THURSDAY – SATURDAY)

LIVE MUSIC & SLEDDING & GALENTINES, OH MY!

Happy New Year from the Quarry! We look forward to an amazing 2022 filled with lots of new community events. Don't miss these upcoming NEW WINTER EVENTS. Follow our events on Facebook for more details or visit us at thequarrycablepark.com for more information!

JAMMIN' IN JANUARY - DATE CHANGE: Jammin' in January has been changed from Fridays to Saturdays.

The dates have changed, but the festivities have grown! We will now be open Saturdays in January beginning January 8 from 11am-11pm. Bring your family down to the sled hill at Three Oaks Recreation Area, connected to the Quarry parking lot, and stop in for hot chocolate, warm soup, or a meal after your outing. We will also have LIVE MUSIC in our Loft Bar every Saturday night from 6pm-9pm and the Bar & Grille will be open to serve light bites, dinner, and fun cocktails. Stay tuned for more family friendly activities to potentially take place during the day in our Lakeside Room.

Galentine's Day

SAVE THE DATE! A Galetine's Day Celebration & Mini-Market is coming to the Quarry on Saturday, February 12. Join us for live music, flirty cocktails, select vendors, chair massage, sweet treats and more. This event will run indoors from 5pm-11pm with live music from 6:30pm-9:30pm. Who doesn't love a good Girls Night Out!?

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.

Lastly, Public Works Department employees work very hard to keep our roads clear. Please remember to remove your vehicles from the roadway during snowfall to allow plows to clear the streets.

SMART 9-1-1

The City of Crystal Lake, in conjunction with Southeast Emergency Communications (SEECOM) has partnered with Smart911 which allows residents to create a Safety Profile which can be shared with first responders in the event of an emergency. A Safety Profile can include information relating to the people living in your household such as medical conditions, medications or allergies, emergency contacts, etc. Your profile can also contain information related to your house such as utility shut-offs or property layout. With Smart911, anytime you make an emergency call from a phone registered with your Safety Profile, the SEECOM Dispatch Center Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) will recognize your phone number and automatically populate your Safety Profile. In an emergency, this information can be extremely useful and help ensure that you and your loved ones receive the best possible care as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Smart911 is a free, private, and secure service where your personal information will not be shared or sold. For more information, or to sign-up for this free service, please consult the Smart911 website at Smart911.com. You may contact Ofc. Sal Alfano at (815)444-5956 if you have any questions.

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE

As we creep further into winter and meet the challenges of snow and sub-zero temperatures, please remember to clear your gas meter and furnace vents! A meter or vent that is covered in snow can cause furnaces and hot water heaters to stop working, and could cause carbon monoxide to build up in your home. Spread the word, check on your elderly neighbors and family members, and as always, STAY SAFE!





WINTER STORM SAFETY

- Plan two ways out of your home in case of an emergency, and keep these 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 and listen to the radio for updates.
- Stay away from any downed wires and report them immediately.



KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR

This time of year fire hydrants can become quickly obstructed with snow and ice, making it hard for Fire Departments to access them in emergency situations. We kindly ask that when you shovel your driveways and sidewalks, you shovel a 5-foot radius of any fire hydrant near your home. This ensures that the Fire Department has necessary access to water supply should they need to respond to a fire.



CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

THE FRED SCHROEDER BUILDING

BY DIANA KENNEY

Chances are you've heard the phrase, "They don't build them like they used to." Chances also are that this article will give new meaning to that phrase.

Fred H. Schroeder was born in Crystal Lake on July 31, 1874. His parents, Carl W. and Fredericka Schroeder were German immigrants. Fred grew up on his father's dairy farm, eventually taking over the farm operation.

On November 30, 1893 Fred married Mathilda Wokersin. The couple lived on the Schroeder family farm about 3-1/2 miles north of Crystal Lake. They had two sons, Alfred and Walter.

By October 1913, Fred made the decision to quit farming. A date was set in November to sell off his equipment and 80 head of cattle. One month later, Fred took the proceeds from the sale and purchased a struggling farm implement business from William Meyer for $3,500. The business was initially named, "Schroeder's Implement House."

After acquiring the business, Fred added new lines of farm equipment including McCormick and International Harvester. In 1915, Fred purchased property on Woodstock Street. The property included a two-story wooden building which had formerly been a blacksmith shop.



The first floor was converted into a sales showroom for tractors, milking machines, and other farm equipment. In addition to farm equipment, Fred began selling automobiles from his showroom. The first vehicles offered were made by Empire and Buick. By then, the business name was advertised as, "F. H. Schroeder, Sales & Service."

In 1916, the United State Bank of Crystal Lake was chartered and opened up on Williams Street. Fred H. Schroeder was named as one of the bank's directors. History has shown the success and failure of this bank would run parallel to Fred's own business career.



The August 2, 1923 Crystal Lake Herald reports, "F.H. Schroeder has let contracts to Hilding M. Olson for a large brick building which will replace the frame building which has housed his automobile and implement business since 1915." Hilding Olson was a well-known Swedish contractor who is credited with building numerous commercial and residential structures in Crystal Lake.

Schroeder's new building would be two stories high in front and one story in the rear. The second floor front would be living quarters, with the first floor used as a showroom. A basement was dug beneath the entire building with plans to use it as an assembly area for farm equipment.

Here is where "they don't build them like they used to" comes in – The new brick building was built around the old wooden structure in order that the business could be carried on without interruption. As work on the new building progressed, the old building was torn away! Fred never had to shut down or relocate during construction.

Fred Schroeder's business grew and was successful until 1931 when the United State Bank failed. Many people in town lost a lot of money when the bank was forced to close. As a bank director and stockholder, Fred was held personally liable for losses due to the Bank's closing. Unable to pay, Fred filed bankruptcy and lost his business.

So, the next time you go to Georgio's Pizza & Pub (75 E. Woodstock St.), take time to look around at the brick walls and ceiling beams, imagine the farm implements and automobiles which were once offered for sale in that space, and raise a glass to toast and acknowledge the beauty of Fred Schroeder's brick building.

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 RESTAURANTS & BUSINESSES COMING SOON!

Sushi U - A new modern sushi restaurant located at 5899 Northwest Highway, Unit A. Features their dine-in All You Can Eat Sushi special and an extensive menu of sushi and sashimi for dine-in, take-out and catering.

Tasty Bistro - Crystal Lake's newest upscale sit-down restaurant featuring a wide variety of Asian specialty dishes and cocktails. Located in the heart of the Virginia Street corridor at 374 W. Virginia Street. For more information check out their website at www.tastybistrocl.com.

Encore Music Academy - Now in downtown Crystal Lake offering a wide selection of classes and lessons including choir, wind symphony, youth orchestra and chamber ensembles for all ages and abilities. Learn more about their programs at EncoreMusicAcademy.org or visit at 87 N. Williams Street

BLUE STAR BANNER PROGRAM

The Blue Star Banner Program honors Crystal Lake residents and government employees who actively serve in the United States military. The program recognizes these individuals for their service and sacrifice and helps bridge the gap between the civilian and military community.

Personalized banners featuring the names and branches of service are displayed along a section of Route 14, between Dole Avenue and to near Keith Avenue, known as Heroes Row. When banners are removed to be replaced by another group, they are presented to honoree families. To date, almost eighty service members who defended our country have had banners along this stretch of roadway.

In December, a Presentation Ceremony was held at City Hall, where Mayor Haig Haleblian participated in giving 20 honorees and/or their families the banners honoring them.



Anyone wishing to nominate an active duty member of the military or to donate to the program, may go to the City's website at www.crystallake.org/our-community/blue-star-banner-program or the Chamber of Commerce website at www.clchamber.com/blue-star-banner-program to complete an application or sponsorship form.

Completed forms can be mailed, dropped off, or emailed to: Crystal Lake Chamber, ATTN: Blue Star Banner Program, 427 W. Virginia Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Email: info@clchamber.com

CALENDAR | January 2022

Tuesday, January 4

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

Tuesday, January 18

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

Wednesday, January 5

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

Wednesday, January 19

- 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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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.