City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORNER

How can you support local businesses?

Crystal Lake businesses appreciate your support – for up-to-date information about events, sales and new businesses in our community follow I Shop Crystal Lake on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter!

Do you own a business?

The City of Crystal Lake would love to support you and your business by sharing your updates through the "I Shop Crystal Lake" program. This program is a social media based campaign with an audience of over 6,000 people. Send us content by emailing ishopcl@crystallake.org or by tagging us in your posts!

The City wants to recognize our business community!

Do you know any businesses celebrating a 25, 30, 40, or 50+ milestone anniversary? If so, please call and share it with us so we can recognize their success and achievements! Contact the Community Development Department at (815) 356-3737.

Business Champions

The annual McHenry County Economic Development Corporation Awards were held in December, and Crystal Lake is proud to announce and congratulate Crystal Lake Bank & Trust, Scholl Construction and Smith Physical Therapy & Running Academy for being 2021 Business Champion Finalists.

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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 and 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.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

The National Football League's Super Bowl 56 will take place on Sunday, February 13, 2022. If you plan on watching the game with alcoholic beverages, be sure to make good decisions.



The Crystal Lake Police Department along with other law enforcement agencies will be participating in a state-wide traffic enforcement campaign sponsored by Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to encourage everyone to please drink responsibly and avoid getting behind the wheel of a vehicle if you have consumed any alcohol or used marijuana. If you see someone getting into a vehicle who appears impaired, please do not hesitate to dial 911, you may save a life.

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

BE ON ALERT FOR HOME REPAIR SCAMS

In the spring and summer months, Crystal Lake and neighboring communities experience more "ruse" type residential burglaries. A "ruse" burglary is considered a crime of deception often involving people posing as workers, repairmen, city employees or other type of service employee (seal coating/roofing), sometimes wearing a reflective orange vest. These individuals distract homeowners (often senior citizens) while several other people enter the home and search for cash and jewelry to steal. In the most recent case, the individual claimed to work for a seal coating company and needed access to the residents' home for water.

You should always ask to see identification before allowing anyone access to your residence especially if you did not make an appointment with that company and this is an unplanned visit. All City employees carry identification. We also encourage all residents to contact the utility company or department they represent to confirm the information they are providing. If you suspect this is a ruse, contact the police immediately. Even if you turn them away, we ask you contact us, as they will prey on your neighbors.

These types of crimes typically target the elderly. Please share with your neighbors, friends and family and help us get the word out about these crimes. This is again, not specific to Crystal Lake and occurs throughout the region. As always, if you see something say something, now!

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

FEBRUARY IS AMERICAN HEART MONTH!

February is American Heart Month! Keep yourself aware by knowing the symptoms of Heart Attack and Stroke:
Source: *www.heart.org*

Heart Attack Symptoms

- Chest Discomfort: most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes, or that may go away and return. The pain can feel like an uncomfortable pressure or squeezing pain.
- Discomfort in other areas of upper body: another symptom may be pain or discomfort in one or both arms, back, neck, jaw, or stomach.
- Shortness of breath: may occur with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs: possible cold sweats, nausea, or lightheadedness.





Stroke Symptoms

- Face Drooping: Ask the person to smile; a face that is numb or drooping on one side may be a sign of stroke.
- Arm weakness: if one arm is weak or numb and drifts downward upon lifting both arms.
- Speech Difficulty: slurred speech or inability to speak may indicate stroke. Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence such as "the sky is blue" and see if they repeat it correctly.
- Time to call 9-1-1: if a person shows any of the symptoms above, even if the symptoms go away, dial 9-1-1 and get them to a hospital immediately.

WINTER ACTIVITY ICE SAFETY:

This time of year, we are all craving some fresh air. Unfortunately, the cold temperatures and snowy weather can sometimes limit what we are able to do. If you plan on spending any time on the ice, please be aware of the dangers and follow the below tips to stay safe:

- NEVER go out on the ice alone.
- Make sure ice is at least 4 inches thick before stepping on it and check multiple spots, as thickness may vary.
- Remember white ice or "snow ice" is only half as strong as new, clear ice.
- When out on ice, wear a life jacket and bright colored clothing, and carry a rope, flotation device, and blankets in case someone falls through the ice

Sources: *www2.illinois.gov/dnr* and *www.dph.illinois.gov*



CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

WALKUP'S POND

BY DIANA KENNEY

The 140 acres of land north of Terra Cotta Avenue (Route 176) and east of Walkup Avenue were once known as Walkup's Woods, as they were owned by the Walkup family, who were early settlers of McHenry County. The John B. Walkup home (built ca 1856) is still standing across the street on the west side of Walkup Avenue.

After years of generously allowing local citizens free recreational access to their private property, L.W. Walkup and his sister Eva Walkup offered in 1921 to sell Walkup's Woods to the community for use as a public park. The newly formed Crystal Lake Park District was not in a position to acquire the land as it was otherwise occupied with a contentious fight to obtain land ownership and water access rights to Crystal Lake near today's Main Beach.

In 1923, local resident H.C. Herendeen and a group of investors purchased the acreage from the Walkups. The Crystal Lake Herald describes the land as "beautiful rolling land, thickly covered with towering oaks and carpeted with virgin turf never touched with a plow." A spring-fed pond was nestled in the southwest corner of the land. The new owners considered two options for use of the land: to put in a golf course or to subdivide the entire tract for residential purposes. Thankfully for all of us, they chose the golf course!

Unfortunately for the investors, the golf course, known as Oakwoods Lodge, failed. Their loss was our community's gain as in April 1939, citizens voted for the Park District to purchase the Walkup's Woods property. The vote was 1063 in favor, 644 against.

The Park District negotiated a purchase price of $20,000, with plans to develop the park over time. The first order of business involved Walkup's Pond. The State of Illinois had plans to pave Walkup Avenue and improve Route 176. The State agreed to dredge the old pond, making it 2-3 feet deep throughout in exchange for being allowed to drain some water from the new roads into the pond. It was believed this runoff water would help keep the spring-fed pond at an even level throughout the year. The shallow waters of Walkup's Pond froze early each winter and made for a much longer and safer ice skating season than the deeper water at Crystal Lake.

By December 1940, a shelter with a speaker system and lights were installed by the pond. Hundreds of ice skaters came to slip, slide and glide their way across the smooth surface of ice. On Sunday afternoons, waltzes were played over the speaker system, and the skate waltzes were reported to be popular with both young and old.

The Crystal Lake Lions Club decided to host the1st Annual Ice Races on Walkup's Pond in February 1941. Races were held for boys and girls in classes from: Up to 10 years, 10 to 14, 14 to 18, and 18 and over. There was even a senior race for skaters 50 years and older. By the end of the day, LeRoy Stanek was declared the Skating Champion. Runner-ups included his brother Warren, Ed Herrick and Robert Reddersdorf.



Early image of Walkup's Pond in winter



LeRoy Stanek's 1st Place Trophy – 1941
Photo provided by Lois Stanek Creese

In 1942, LeRoy Stanek was unable to defend his title as by then he was serving in the Army. His younger brother Warren took the men's honors while Inez Hansen won for the ladies. After these first two years, the ice races on Walkup's Pond were discontinued. WWII and concerns for our soldiers overseas occupied the community's time and attention. After the war, Walkup's Woods was renamed Veteran Acres Park, but many old-timers still referred to it by its former name.

In 1955, the Crystal Lake Kiwanis Club decided to host an Ice Carnival at the park. This new event had both ice skating races and figure skating competitions. The Ice Carnival tradition at Veteran Acres lasted for many years.

Ice skating was discontinued at the Walkup's Woods/Veteran Acres pond about 25 years ago due to poor ice conditions. As nearby roads were widened and salting in the winter grew in practice, more salt filtered into the pond which kept the water from freezing consistently. Sadly, the days of smooth skating ice on Walkup's Pond are over.

Although Walkup's Pond no longer provides our residents with the joy of winter ice skating, it does provide us with a beautiful, tranquil vista featuring a small body of water nestled among the rolling hills and trees. A person can sit on a bench near its shore, close their eyes, and maybe—just maybe—hear the sound of an ice skating waltz.

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.

QUARRY CABLE PARK

GALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION & MINI-MARKET:
Saturday, February 12

Join us for a Galentine's Day Celebration & Mini-Market at the Quarry on Saturday, February 12, 2022. We are pleased to bring you live music with Jimmy Marquis in the Loft Bar, flirty cocktails, select market vendors, chair massage brought to you by TLC Massage, sweet treats, photo backdrops and more.

This event will run indoors from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and is available to all on a first-come, first-serve basis. Who doesn't love a good Girls Night Out!? Hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS
The Quarry is thrilled to introduce more community events for you to enjoy year-round. Save the Date for our St. Patrick's Day event on Saturday, March 12, 2022 and Mother's Day Market the last weekend of April.

As a reminder, the Quarry is open year-round for private events. Contact us to book your event at events@thequarrycablepark.com.



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

PAVILION RENTALS

The City is now taking reservations for the 2022 season. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to set your date and make your reservation very soon!

Reservations can be made online at www.registration.threeoaksrecreation.com. If you have questions regarding pavilion rentals, please call (815) 459-2020, ext. 4288.

THREE OAKS NOW HIRING

Three Oaks is now hiring lifeguards and attendants for the 2022 season. Lifeguards must obtain Red Cross certification prior to the beginning of the season, however, potential applicants can apply before obtaining certification. Please visit the Human Resources Employment page on the City's website to submit your application. Assistant Operations Manager positions are also available. Applicants with leadership skills and management experience are encouraged to apply.



PASSES

Non-Resident Season Pass

Season passes for Three Oaks Recreation Area are available for purchase at City Hall. Passes are valid January 1st through December 31st. The season pass includes: parking, entry into the beach, playground, splash pad, and resident marina rental rates.

The non-resident season pass is valid for family members only, defined as parent(s) and/or dependents under 18 years old living at the same address. Non-dependent nephews, nieces, cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents and grandchildren are excluded. Children under three (3) years old enter for free and do not need a pass.

Pricing for current purchase date:

	Fee
Individual	$150
Family of 2	$210
Family of 3	$290
Family of 4	$370
Each Additional Family Member	$30

Non-Resident Dependent Care Provider Pass

Passes are available for purchase at City Hall for $20.00. Passes are valid Monday - Friday (Memorial Day to Labor Day).

The non-resident dependent care provider and the individual accompanied by the provider receive free parking, free beach entrance, and resident marina rental rates.

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!

WEATHERBUG

This online weather center gives you a look at real-time, on-site weather conditions as they exist from temperatures to wind speed, wind direction, precipitation and humidity. We also have a WeatherBug camera mounted on top of the Three Oaks Recreation Area Lakehouse Building roof (often displayed on WGN's Tom Skilling weather forecasts) facing the South Lake. This added bonus gives you a true picture of current conditions. Check it out at www.weatherbug.com under the Cameras tab.

HAVE A HEART PAPER DRIVE

February 12th – February 19th
2022 is a new year with a new focus!
Target: Paper Products Collection
Items Needed: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Facial Tissue & Dinner Napkins

This year, Downtown Crystal Lake/Main Street will be hosting a "Have a Heart Paper Drive" to benefit the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. Participating merchants and their customers will be collecting cash and paper products (Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Facial Tissue and Dinner Napkins) for Food Pantry recipients.

Cash donations enable the Crystal Lake Food Pantry to purchase food items at a super-reduced rate to fill their shelves with the most needed food items. They do not have this same option for providing paper products to Food Pantry recipients. And yet, we all need these paper products for everyday living, right? So, let's help our neighbors in need!

Visit the Downtown Crystal Lake website (www.DowntownCL.org) for a list of participating downtown merchants who will be accepting cash and paper products donations during our "Have a Heart Paper Drive".



CALENDAR | February 2022

Tuesday, February 1
- City council Meeting, 7:00 PM (City Hall)

Wednesday, February 2
- Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM (City Hall)

Tuesday, February 15
- City Council Meeting, 7:00 PM (City Hall)

Wednesday, February 16
- Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting, 7:00 PM (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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Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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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.