City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

FISHING AT THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Three Oaks is a popular destination for anglers who value clean water, great visibility, well-stocked lakes and our "Catch & Release" fishing environment. No outside boats are allowed on the lake in order to protect against invasive species. Only electric trolling motors are used on our fishing boats. Anglers can rent one of our fishing boats to explore the 300+ acre lake with over 1.5 miles of shoreline.

Fishing Boats

Our fleet of 12' and 14' aluminum fishing boats come equipped with trolling motors and 12-volt batteries. Personal fish locators are welcomed, but will need to be cleaned at the park.

Rental Rates (2-hour minimum)
12' fishing boat: $25 | Crystal Lake resident discount: $22
14' fishing boat: $28 | Crystal Lake resident discount: $24

Guidelines

Illinois fishing licenses are required. No "live bait" allowed (defined as aquatic bait, minnows or leeches), although night crawlers are allowed and available for purchase at the Marina. Contrary to Illinois State Law, the taking of smaller fish (or any lake creature) and using them as bait is not allowed.

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2022 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Open Water Swim?

Open Water Swim is distance swimming, beyond the boundaries of the beach's buoy markers offered on Saturdays in the months of June and July. More information on dates and times will be available on our website under the Open Water Swim tab.

Can I Scuba Dive at Three Oaks?

Upon arrival at the park, please go to the Marina to check-in, confirm completion of the release form, and pay. Each diver must present an active diving certification card along with a photo ID. Please do not enter the water until you have checked in, spoken with the Manager and paid at the Marina.

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. Please submit your pictures to either the Three Oaks Recreation Area Facebook page or email to threeoaks@crystallake.org.



Photo credit: Linnea Maria



Photo credit: Michael Odonnell



Photo credit: Carly Droste

OPENING DATES

Marina

Weather permitting, the Marina will open for the season at 6:30 am on Saturday, April 16, 2022.

- The Marina will be open on weekends only in April from 6:30 am to sunset.
- Only row boats will be available in April due to the cold weather. We will have our full fleet of boats available at the Marina building in May.

Swim Beach

Weather permitting the Swim Beach will tentatively open for the season on May 28, 2022 at 10:00 am

Scuba Zone

The Scuba Zone will tentatively open in May, weather permitting.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Lifeguards

The City is currently hiring lifeguards 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 page on the City's website to submit your application.

Assistant Operations Manager

Another available position is Assistant Operations Manager. Applicants with leadership skills and management experience are encouraged to apply.



PET OWNER GUIDELINES

Pets are limited to the hiking trails only and are not allowed in the public picnic grounds, beach area, scuba zone or in either lake on the property. Pet-owner clean-up rules apply. At the head of each trail, courtesy bags & trash cans are provided for your walk. Please keep your pet on a short-leash at your side at all times.

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!

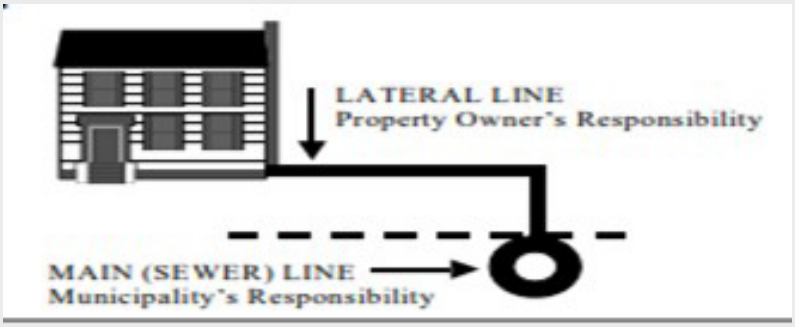
SANITARY SEWER BACKUP INFORMATION

Below are important steps to remember when experiencing a sewer backup:

1. Stop using water! This contributes to the backup. Don't run any water down your drains until the blockage has been cleared.
2. Before calling a plumber, call the City of Crystal Lake Public Works Department (815) 356-3614 (24/7) to inspect the City's main sewer line. There is no charge to you for having City crews come out.
3. Quickly close all drain openings with stoppers or plugs. Tub, sink, and floor drain plugs may need additional weight to keep them sealed. A string mop can be used to help plug toilet openings.

WHY DO I CALL THE CITY BEFORE I CALL A PLUMBER?

The City maintains the main sewer lines. If the backup is in the City's lines, City crews will resolve the issue. This saves you the expense of having a plumber come out for a blockage they couldn't have cleared. If the City's inspection of the main line shows it's clear, you'll then call a plumber, as the problem is in your lateral service line.



WHAT PORTION OF THE SEWER LINES IS THE HOMEOWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY?

Homeowners are responsible for the lateral line, which is the portion of the sewer line that services your home. Please see the diagram for clarification.

HOW CAN SEWER BACKUPS BE PREVENTED?

The City inspects and cleans the sanitary sewer mains throughout the City. Homeowners can help prevent backups by NEVER flushing diapers, sanitary napkins, paper towels, rags, or grease down the toilet or drain. Tree roots may invade your lateral line. Homeowners can hire a plumbing company to preventatively remove tree roots.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: REFUSE, RECYCLING AND YARD WASTE

WHAT ITEMS CAN OR CANNOT BE RECYCLED?

There are many misconceptions around what items can or cannot be recycled. In addition to the following list, the McHenry County College offers resources for proper recycling in their annual Green Guide available at www.McHenry.edu.

The following items can be recycled in your curbside recycling bin:

- Cardboard, newspapers, magazines, and paper products.
- Aluminum, tin, steel, and bi-metal beverage and food cans.
- Plastics: please check the numbering on the plastic item to confirm if it is recyclable. Plastics numbered 1 and 2 are the most viable plastics for recycling.

The following items cannot be recycled in your curbside recycling bin:

- Pizza boxes or any items with food waste or grease.
- Styrofoam and boxes with Styrofoam glued to the box.
- Electronic items, including TVs, monitors, cell phones, batteries, or appliances.
- Straws, plastic lids, bubble wrap, utensils, or foam containers.
- Personal Protective Equipment: Masks, gloves, or paper towels.

Continued on page 4

Resources are available to recycle many items that cannot be placed in your curbside recycling bin, including:

- Stryofoam: The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County can direct you to the location of a Styrofoam recycling center. Please visit http://mcdef.org or call (815) 338-0393.
- Appliances and Electronics: LRS / Prairieland Disposal offers twice per year collection events. The Chamber of Commerce also offers an Earth Day drop off event in April.
- Please contact your local Township for more recycling services, including: Paint drop off, battery drop off, electronics drop off, motor oil and tires.

Does LRS / Prairieland Disposal offer composting?

LRS / Prairieland Disposal offers multiple options for composting. Residents can purchase a composting bin to collect and dispose of food scraps with their regular yard waste collection. Please contact Prairieland Disposal at (847) 381-9300 to request a compost bin or to receive additional information regarding composting options.

When does yard waste collection begin?

Yard waste collection begins on April 1st each year. Yard waste will be collected until the second full week of December.

How should I dispose of plastic bags?

Plastic bags from grocery and retail stores are not allowed to be included with residential recycling. Although it is common to use plastic bags to bundle recyclable material, the bags are not recyclable even if there are recyclable materials inside the bags. There are two options for residents to dispose of accumulated plastic bags from grocery and retail stores:

1. Jewel-Osco and Walmart will accept returned plastic bags that are not contaminated, or;
2. Place any plastic bags from grocery and retail stores in your garbage container for collection.

COMING SOON - NORTH MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The City is excited to announce that construction will start in March to add a new traffic signal to the intersection of North Main Street and Route 176. Also included in this improvement is the addition of a northbound left turn lane and eastbound right turn lane at the intersection. New pavement will be placed along North Main Street from Route 176 to Woodstock Street. Water main along Route 176 and North Main Street will also be upgraded. The City was granted $1.5 million in federal funding and $186,500 in State funding towards the improvement.

During construction, northbound North Main Street between Gates Street and Route 176 will be re-routed for a few months. southbound traffic on North Main Street will remain open. Once this work is complete, eastbound Route 176 between Second Street and Park Boulevard will be re-routed for approximately 2 months. Westbound traffic on Route 176 will remain open. Appropriate signage of the detour routes will be put in place. Changeable message boards will be in place alerting the traveling public of these closure dates.

To stay up-to-date with the construction progress please visit the City's website at www.crystallake.org/our-community/construction- projects



CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING Q&A

How many fire hydrants are there in the City of Crystal Lake?
There are over 3,000 fire hydrants in the City of Crystal Lake and the Water & Sewer Division flushes out each of these hydrants and the attached underground pipes annually during the Spring.

Why are hydrants flushed every year, isn't it wasting water?
There are two main reasons fire hydrants are flushed every year. First and foremost to ensure the hydrants are operating properly and to guarantee there is sufficient water flow and pressure for the Crystal Lake Fire & Rescue Department if needed. The second reason is to flush naturally occurring sediment out of the underground pipes connected to the fire hydrant.

How is a fire hydrant turned on, where is the water coming from?
Each fire hydrant you see is connected to an underground pipe carrying water. It is the same water coming into your home or business. A hydrant wrench (see below) is used to open a "port" where the water comes out, similar to the faucet in your home. The same wrench is used to turn the "operating nut" located on the top of the hydrant. The operating nut allows water to come up the barrel and flow out of the openings, similar to your faucet's hot and cold knobs.

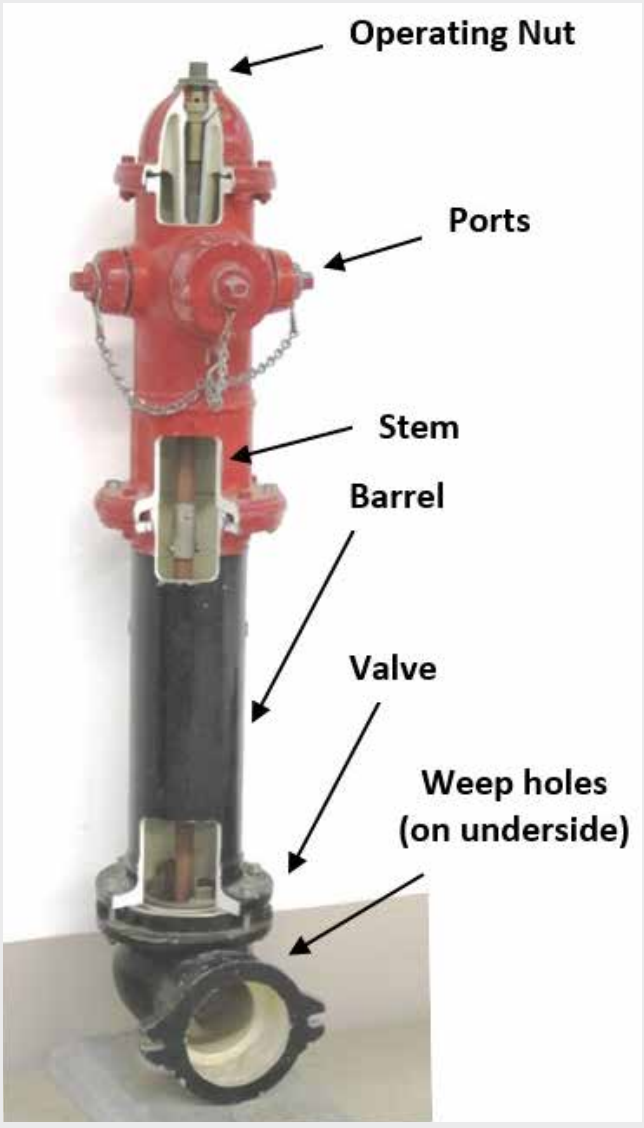


Hydrant wrench

How does Crystal Lake Fire & Rescue use a hydrant to fight a fire?
Water comes out of fire hydrants at the same pressure you experience in your home. However, firefighters require adequate pressure and high volume to fight fires. In order to have enough volume, the firefighters will open the large cover and connect a 4-1/2 or 5-inch hose from the hydrant to their fire engine. The fire engine contains a pump increasing the pressure of the water. The firefighters then connect smaller hoses to the engine which are used to actually fight a fire.

During hydrant flushing will I see any changes to my water service?
During flushing, water may become temporarily discolored due to material being removed from water mains. The water is safe to drink, but may stain clothes that are washed during the flushing. Please limit laundry cleaning during this time, but if this is not possible, the City offers Rover, a chemical that can be used as a cleanser in laundry to remove iron stains, free of charge.

If a car were to strike a hydrant, would the water really gush out like it does in the movies?
Normally, no. As long as a hydrant is off, water should not gush out if struck. All the fire hydrants you see around the City are "dry barrel hydrants" which means there is no water sitting in the upper portion of the hydrant when it is turned off. The valve controlling the flow of water is actually below ground and there is a long stem connecting the valve to the operating nut. Near the base of that valve are weep holes. When the operating nut is used to turn the hydrant off, it opens those weep holes and allows the water to drain out of the hydrant and the stem. Incidentally, this is also a very important mechanism to avoid water freezing in the hydrant during the colder months.



CURBSIDE ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT: MARCH 7-11, 2022

LRS / Prairieland Disposal will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of March 7-11, 2022. 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. LRS / Prairieland Disposal will conduct the next electronics collection week in September 2022.

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

Accepted Electronics Items

One Television or One Computer Monitor
Cell Phones, Telephones and Tablets
Cameras
CD Players
Computer Drives
Cords and Cables
Electronics Mice and Keyboards
Fax Machines and Printers
Holiday Lights
Modems
Paper Shredders
Satellite Receivers
Scanners
Stereos
Video Game Consoles

Items NOT Accepted

Air Conditioners
Appliances
Batteries
Battery Operated Children's Toys
Coffee Makers
Computer Disks
Dishwashers
Hair Dryers and Hair Irons
Humidifiers
Liquid or Chemical Waste
Microwave Ovens
Packaging Materials
Refrigerators
Smoke and Fire Detectors
Water Softeners

Please contact LRS / Prairieland Disposal at (847) 381-9300 with any questions regarding the electronics collection event.

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

Good Things are Happening in the City of Crystal Lake!

A video highlighting accomplishments from the last year and providing an overview of projects and developments planned for 2022 can be seen on the City website.

The video, which debuted at the State of the Community event, features businesses, the City, School Districts 47 and 155, the Crystal Lake Park District, and McHenry County College.

Access to the State of the Community video can be found on the City's website in the Link and Resources section of the City Council Page:



https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/city-council

THE GREAT WATER TOWER CAPER

BY DIANA KENNEY

For most people, high school is a time for learning, maturing, forging strong bonds of friendship, and for doing silly things that can make you squirm and laugh decades later!

The remaining members of CLCHS Class of 1948 still enjoys a good chuckle over "The Great Water Tower Caper."

The first week of October in 1947 was Homecoming Week. The Homecoming Court had been selected (Sue Adams was crowned Queen), and the football team was busy practicing for their upcoming game against the Arlington Cardinals.



Varsity football players: Tom Cowan, Gene Murphy, Dave Cuddeback, and Roger Fanter

The Crystal Lake Herald reported there were a number of incidents where teenage boys had been causing mischief around town (leaf fires were set, boys were skitching rides on the back of automobiles...the usual tricks). In most cases the boys were caught and sent home to their parents with a stern warning.

On the Wednesday before Homecoming Week was to start, an unusual prank was carried out....it was "The Great Water Tower Caper."

Approximately six male students decided to make a "few changes and alterations" to the Franklin Street water tower.

The Franklin Street water tower and pump house were built in 1930. These structures no longer exist, but were located at the corner of Franklin & College Streets. The image below shows how the lower half of the water tower had elaborate gridwork (the kind one could climb on).



Crystal Lake Herald 10/2/1952, pg 9

The group of boys waited until about 11PM to pull the prank. They drove to the water tower (in case they needed a quick getaway).

The car had a spot light which was used to help the others as they climbed up the gridwork of the water tower. Paint was used to add an "F" and "S" to the word "Lake", changing it to "Crystal Flakes". The words "Beat Arlington" were then painted underneath.

When daylight came, and the caper was revealed, Mayor George Krause and Police Chief Joel Murphy were furious, and the hunt was on to find the perpetrators! Like good classmates and friends, no one admitted to doing the deed or knowing anything about it.

Krause and Murphy met with the Student Council and the mayor ruled that no Homecoming Parade could be held unless the paint was removed or suitable arrangements made by 4 o'clock on Monday afternoon. Chief Murphy declared that any other mischief makers would be locked up in the city jail.

To make amends, an unsigned letter was left in the mailbox at Mayor Krause's house. The letter was written in pencil, and was described as "somewhat arrogant in nature", stating the caper was just a fun prank which was being blown out of proportion. A small amount of cash was also included to offset the cost of re-painting the water tower.

Mayor Krause relented, and the Homecoming Parade and other festivities were held.

70+ years later, despite assurances that the statute of limitations had run out, the classmates still squirm in their seats when asked who did it? And so, no names will be revealed by this author of the boys who pulled off "The Great Water Tower Caper."

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. To contact Diana, email: info@cl-hs.org

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES

On Sunday, March 13, 2022, it will be time to turn your clocks ahead one hour. Make it a tradition that when you change your clocks for Daylight Saving Time, you also change your smoke and CO detector batteries. Working detectors on every level of your home can buy your family valuable time to escape from a fire or a dangerous level of carbon monoxide.

Smoke detectors save lives! Smoke detectors that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. If there is a fire in your home, smoke spreads fast and you need smoke detectors to give you time to get out.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 60% of fire related deaths occur in homes with non-working smoke detectors or no smoke detectors.

Additional Safety Tips:



- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke detectors in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install detectors on every level of the home.
- Replace your detectors if they are 10 years or older.
- Create an escape plan and meeting place with your family and practice the plan with all family members.

Information provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

SPRING CLEANING SAFETY

March 21st-25th is Poison Prevention Week. Below are some tips to prevent any accidents.

- Read and follow directions on product labels for cleaning chemicals
- Turn on fans and open windows to move air.
- Oven cleaners, drain openers, toilet bowl cleaners and rust removers are among the most dangerous products found in homes. These caustics burn on skin or eye contact. Always keep them out of reach of children.
- Never mix cleaning products unless the label directs you to, as toxic gases may form. Never mix bleach with a cleaner that contains ammonia (generates chloramine gas) or a cleaner that contains an acid (generates chlorine gas).



POISON Help®
1-800-222-1222

- Store products in their original containers. Transferring cleaners, such as pesticides or auto fluids to food or soda containers has caused some of the most serious poisonings in unsuspecting victims.
- Put chemicals away immediately after use. Make sure caps are tightly sealed, and spray bottles are in a locked position. Use child proof locks on cabinets/closets where chemicals are stored.

CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DON'T GET CAUGHT THIS PHISHING SEASON

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A PHISHING SCAM

Scammers use email or text messages to trick you into giving them your personal information. But there are several things you can do to protect yourself.

Phishing emails and text messages may look like they're from a company you know or trust. They may look like they're from a bank, a credit card company, a social networking site, an online payment website or app, or an online store.

They may:

- say they've noticed some suspicious activity or log-in attempts
- claim there's a problem with your account or your payment information
- say you must confirm some personal information
- include a fake invoice
- want you to click on a link to make a payment
- say you're eligible to register for a government refund
- offer a coupon for free merchandise

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A PHISHING ATTACK

If you get an email or a text message that asks you to click on a link or open an attachment, answer this question: **Do I have an account with the company or know the person that contacted me?**

If the answer is "No," it could be a phishing scam. Go back and review the tips in "How To Recognize a Phishing Scam" and look for signs of a phishing scam. If you see them, report the message and then delete it.

If the answer is "Yes," contact the company using a phone number or website you know is real. Not the information in the email. Attachments and links can install harmful malware.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU RESPONDED TO A PHISHING EMAIL

If you think a scammer has your information, like your Social Security, credit card, or bank account number, go to IdentityTheft.gov. There you'll see the specific steps to take based on the information that you lost.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY SAFETY – DON'T RELY ON LUCK

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, one of the top 10 drinking days in the calendar year, the Crystal Lake Police Department encourages everyone to celebrate safely. Please designate a sober driver, or use a paid mode of transportation. Additional Crystal Lake Officers will participate in a statewide campaign for traffic and DUI enforcement during the St. Patrick's Day weekend.



MARCH 1ST IS SELF-INJURY AWARENESS DAY

We want the Crystal Lake community to know that there is various ways to help yourself or someone you know who turns to self-harm. For some people, when depression and anxiety lead to a tornado of emotions, they turn to self-harm looking for a release. Self-harm and self-injury are any forms of hurting oneself on purpose. Usually, when people self-harm, they do not do so as a suicide attempt. Rather, they self-harm as a way to release painful emotions.

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

NO MATTER WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH, YOU'RE NOT ALONE



- It is estimated that 21 million adults experienced a depression episode in 2020 in the US.
- In 2020 66% of US adults received treatment for a major depressive disorder.
- 4.1 million adolescents experienced a major depressive episode.
- Under half of all Adolescents with depression actually received treatment.
- 31.1% of adults experience some type of anxiety disorder
- 31.9% of Adolescents have anxiety disorder
- 3.6% of US adults had PTSD in the year 2020
- 5% of US Adolescents had PTSD in the year 2020, 1.5% being severe
- Suicide was the 10th leading cause of death in 2019 in the US

Source: National Institute of Mental Health

Make sure to "like" us on Facebook and Twitter to stay informed and updated on information, police activity, common scams, and other useful information is posted daily to our Facebook page.

QUARRY CABLE PARK

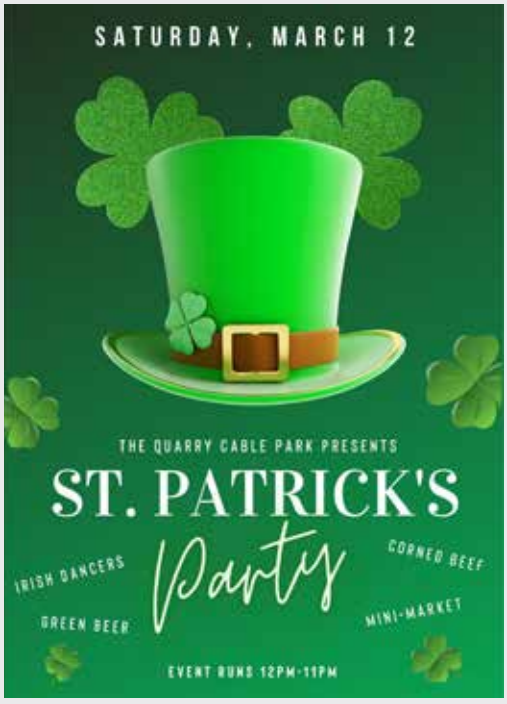
ST. PATRICK'S PARTY | SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Join the Quarry for a St. Patrick's Party at the Quarry on Saturday, March 12. We are excited to transform the Quarry into an Irish Pub with corned beef, green beer, whiskey drinks, live music, fun decor, and feature the McNulty Irish Dancers! This is a family friendly event open to all ages.

Event: 12pm-11pm
Live Music: 1pm-4pm & 6:30pm-9:30pm
Irish Dancers: 5:15pm-6pm
Tickets: $5 Entry Fee | Kids 18 Under Free
www.thequarrycablepark.com/shop/

PRIVATE EVENTS

Do you have an occasion to celebrate? The Quarry is the perfect backdrop for your next party! Dates are filling up quickly, so book your graduations, birthday parties, showers, baptisms, rehearsal dinners, retirement parties and more! Contact The Quarry to book your event at events@thequarrycablepark.com.



SPRING 2022 FULL SYSTEM HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

Section 1 – March 21st – March 25th
North of Route 176 and East of Route 14
East of Terra Cotta Road and North of Crystal lake Avenue

Section 2 - March 28th – April 1st
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

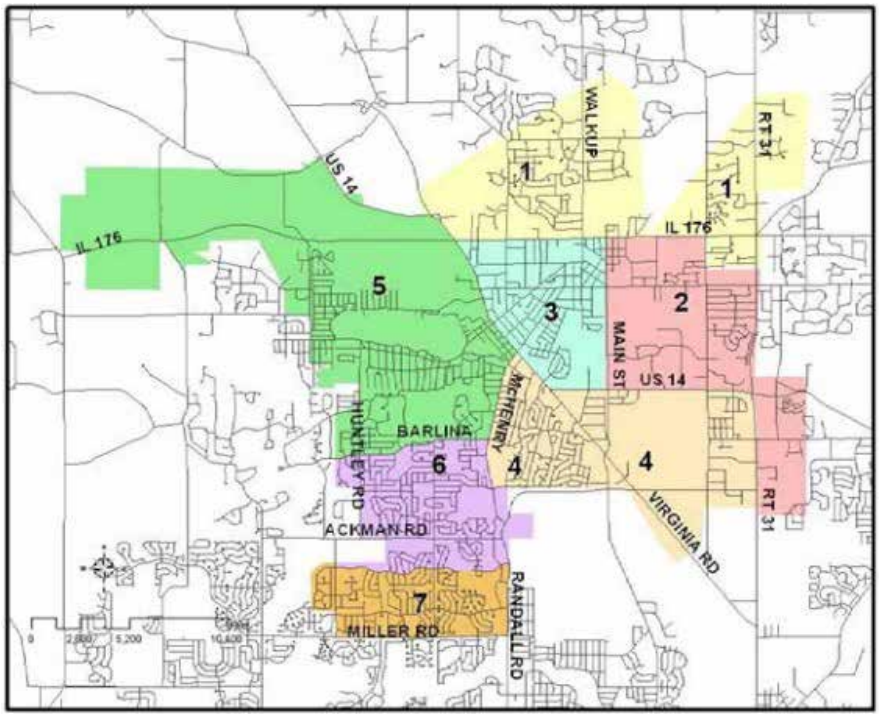
Section 3 - April 4th – April 8th
South of Route 176 to Route 14
East of Route 14 to Main Street

Section 4 – April 11th – April 15th
South of Route 14, East of McHenry Avenue to Route 31

Section 5 – April 18th – April 22nd
West of Route 14 & McHenry Avenue, North of Barlina Road

Section 6 – April 25th – April 29th
South of Barlina Road to Alexandra Boulevard
West of McHenry Avenue and West of Randall Road

Section 7 – May 2nd – May 6th
South of Alexandra Boulevard to Miller Road
West of Randall Road



CALENDAR | March 2022

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 16
- Planning and 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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City of Crystal Lake
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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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.