City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



In Remembrance: Memorial Day

Memorial Day is so much more than a holiday. It's not a celebratory day, but one filled with remembering and honoring those military service members who did not come home. Our country must never forget the brave souls who answered our nation's call to honorably serve and fight for our freedom. The selfless American military members who have perished on the battlefield, those who have not returned, and those who went missing having not found their way back home, should always remain in our hearts.

In order to commemorate this day, the City will host a Memorial Day Parade and ceremony. The Parade will be held at 11:00 a.m. on May 30. The procession starts at Central High School, then runs east along Franklin Avenue, north on Williams Street, and west on Woodstock Street, before reaching Union Cemetery. Following the parade, a ceremony will be held at Union Cemetery.

The Parade will feature Scout organizations, Veteran organizations, and the Crystal Lake Police Department Honor Guard, who will be presenting a twenty-one gun salute during the ceremony. Any groups wishing to participate in this parade can find information and a sign-up sheet on page 10.

Brush Pick-Up Page 5

Downtown Crystal Lake Page 8

Memorial Day Parade Page 10

POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Police Week

National Police Week is May 11-17. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation that designated May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

Millions of Americans face the reality of living with mental illness. The Crystal Lake Police Department takes part in the national movement to raise awareness about mental health by providing public education and by supporting people with mental health illnesses. Mental health resources are included in this Newsletter for your reference.

The McHelp App is a quick click away from reaching immediate crisis support and information via text or voice. The app provides anonymous access to trained and licensed crisis counselors for times of emergency, concern, anxiety, or need. **The app can be downloaded from Apple Store or Google Play.**

Centegra Crisis Services serves as the first point of contact for callers needing immediate assistance for mental health emergencies. Crisis line professionals are also available to help people with intense personal, family, and marital problems. To reach Centegra Crisis Services please call **1-800-892-8900.**

United Way 211 is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to make referrals to health and human service agencies, from mortgage, rent, and utility assistance to food banks, child care, health services, job training, clothing, emergency shelter, counseling, and more. Their contact number is **2-1-1.**

The McHenry County Mental Health Board can assist with questions regarding resources for mental health and substance abuse resources that are available in McHenry County. Contact the organization at **815-455-2828.**

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

May is National Water Safety Month

Home Pool & Hot Tub Safety

Did you know that 69% of young children who drown were not expected to be in or near water?



Tips to help reduce drowning risks:

- Secure your pool with appropriate fences, gates, and barriers.
- Designate a "water watcher" that remains within arm's reach of young children.
- Install proper drain covers and safety release systems to prevent drain entrapment.
- If a child is missing, check the water first.
- Establish and enforce rules for safety.
- Ensure every member of your family learns to swim.
- Know what to do in a water emergency.

Source: www.redcross.org

Life Jacket Safety

When should a life jacket be worn?

- Small children and weak swimmers should wear life jackets when near water.
- Everyone should wear life jackets when in oceans or open water.
- When boating or while doing water based sports everyone should wear life jackets.
- Everyone should wear life jackets around cold water and ice.



Other life jacket tips:

- Make sure the life jacket is U.S. Coast Guard-approved (Look for the stamp inside the life jacket).
- Check the label on the life jacket for size and weight limits.
- Check all buckles to guarantee proper function, and discard any jackets with torn fabric or lose straps.
- Put it on and practice swimming in it.

Source: www.redcross.org

Swimming Safely At The Beach

- Only swim when a lifeguard is present.
- Only swim in designated areas.
- Do not go swimming alone.
- Avoid swimming where large waves or rip currents are present.
- Be aware of hazards and the weather.
- Establish and enforce rules and safe behaviors.
- Ensure all members of your family learn how to swim.
- Know what to do in case of a beach emergency.



Source: www.redcross.org

CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
(815) 356-3640

Flood Zone Hazard Information

Information on whether your property is at a higher risk for flooding can be obtained by viewing the online FEMA floodplain maps. Maps are available for viewing at the Community Development counter in City Hall, along with other flood-related information. The Engineering Division website also contains links to these maps. Contact Engineering Division staff at (815) 356-3605 for further assistance. City staff is happy to assist residents in reading these maps and locating individual properties along with floodway, historic flood information and identifying wetlands and other sensitive areas. City staff can also provide flood protection assistance over the phone or by visiting a property.

Flood Safety
During heavy rains or flash floods, the following general guidelines can help protect you from the dangers of flooding:

- Do not drive through standing water or a flooded area. Do not drive around barriers, as hidden flooding dangers are likely to be present beyond the sight of the initial warning signage.
- Do not walk through flowing water. Currents can be deceptive, and as little as six inches of water can knock a person off their feet.
- Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. If your house is in danger of flooding, turn off the power at the service box. Electrical currents can travel through water. Electrocution is the second leading cause of death during floods.
- Be alert to gas leaks. Turn off the gas to your house if your home is in danger of flooding. If you smell gas, report it to Nicor Gas. If you smell gas or are unsure if your gas has been shut off, do not use candles, lanterns, or open flames.
- Keep children away from floodwaters, ditches, culverts, and storm drains. Floodwaters can carry dangerous moving objects that are not visible from the surface. Culverts may also pose hidden dangers and trap children.
- Clean everything that has gotten wet. Floodwater is contaminated with sewage and other chemicals, posing severe health threats.
- Do not use gas engines such as generators or start charcoal fires indoors during power outages. Carbon monoxide exhaust can pose serious health hazards.

Property Protection Measures
There are many basic maintenance techniques that you can employ to help minimize potential damage to your property during heavy rains:

- Check sump pumps regularly.
- Clean roof gutters and downspouts regularly.
- Watertight seals can be applied to brick and block walls, protecting against low-level flooding.
- Utilities such as heating and air conditioning systems, water heaters, and other major appliances can be elevated to higher floors in the structure or on raised platforms.
- Temporary measures such as moving furniture and valuables to higher floors and sandbagging exterior openings will also help.

Floodplain Permit Requirements
All developments within the 100-year floodplain (not just construction of buildings, but filling, excavation, fences, etc.) must obtain a permit from the City. Applications must be made before doing any work in a floodplain area. Contact the Engineering Division at (815) 356-3605 to receive all the information you will need to develop in the floodplain properly. You may also report any illegal development activities to this number.

Flood Insurance
Many residents are unaware that most homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from floods. Flood insurance is available to residents of Crystal Lake through their insurance carriers, as the City is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Additionally, because the City participates in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program, flood insurance premiums are discounted for residents in the 100-year floodplain.

If you currently have flood insurance, check your policy to ensure you have adequate coverage. Policies usually cover the building structure but not the contents. Contents coverage can be obtained, and there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage becomes effective. Plan ahead; do not wait until a flood is predicted before purchasing flood insurance.

If you are building inside the floodplain, the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory when using a federally regulated and insured bank for a loan.

Drainage System Maintenance
Keeping smaller ditches and streams free of debris can dramatically improve the run-off capacity of low-lying areas and greatly reduce blockage that significantly contributes to flooding. It is illegal to dump materials (including but not limited to oil, grease, pesticides, or other pollutants) into a waterway or down storm drains; violators may be fined. If you see someone in the act of dumping or see debris in one of our watercourses, please contact the Engineering Division at (815) 356-3605.

Additional Information
If you want to get more information regarding flood-related issues in Crystal Lake, here are some additional sources:

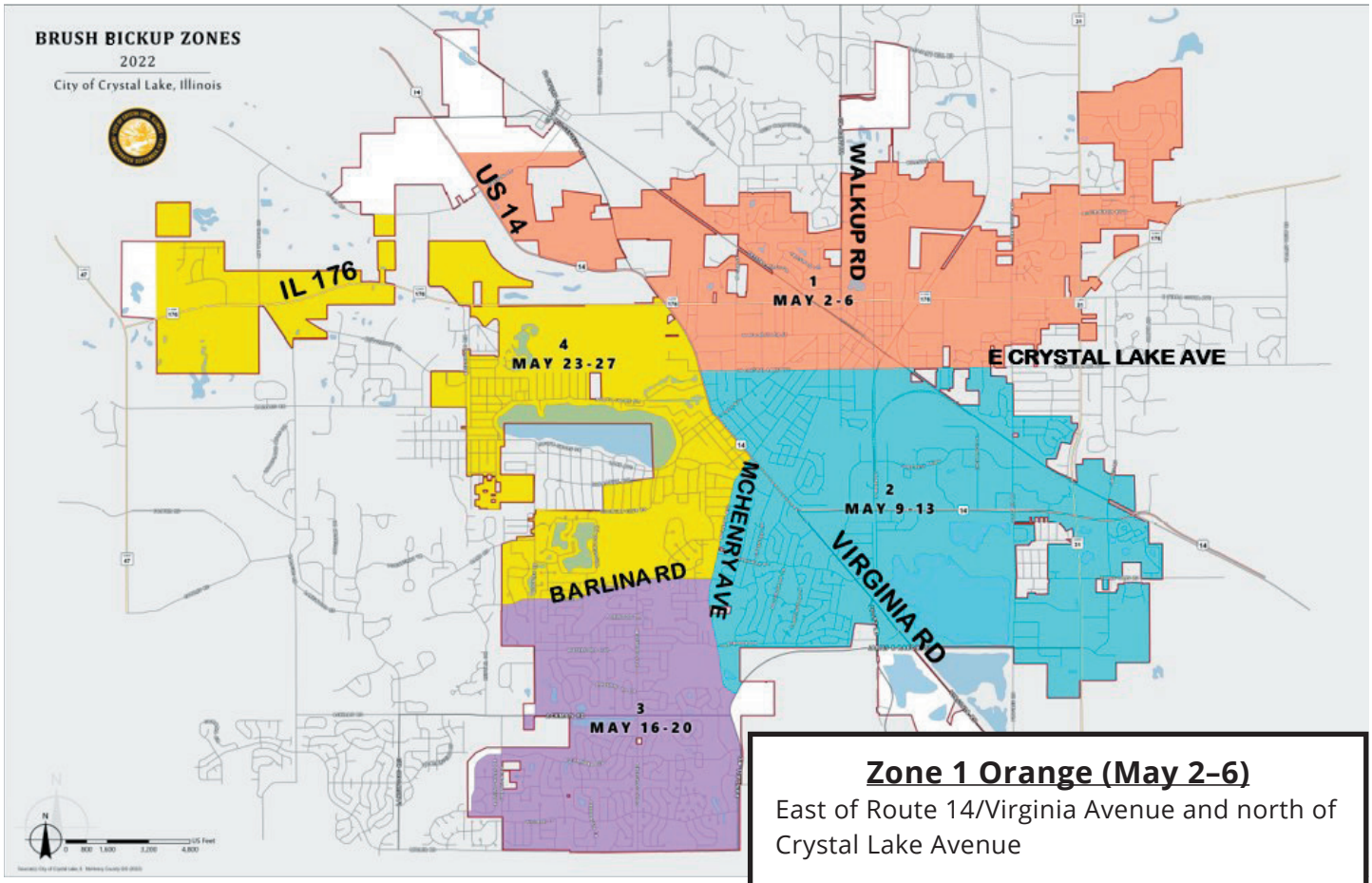
- National Flood Insurance Program website:
  www.floodsmart.gov/

- City of Crystal Lake Engineering Division
  100 West Woodstock Street
  Crystal Lake, IL 60014
  (815) 356-3605

- City of Crystal Lake Website:
  www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/public-works/sewer-and-storm-water-management

- Crystal Lake Public Library

BRUSH PICK-UP ZONES MAP



Zone 1 Orange (May 2–6)
East of Route 14/Virginia Avenue and north of Crystal Lake Avenue

Zone 2 Blue (May 9-13)
East of Route 14/Virginia Street; east of McHenry Avenue; and south of Crystal Lake Avenue

Zone 3 Purple (May 16-20)
West of McHenry Avenue/Randall Road and south of Barlina Road

Zone 4 Yellow (May 23-27)
West of Route 14/Virginia Street; west of McHenry Avenue; and north of Barlina Road

Brush Pick-Up Information

The City's annual Brush Pick-Up Program will begin May 2, 2022. Please see the map outlining when Public Works will service your area of the City. When it is your week for pick-up, please have your brush at the curb by 6:00 a.m. that Monday. The brush must be six inches or less in diameter and six feet or less in length to be accepted. Other materials, such as bagged leaves and grass, will not be taken during pick-up.

Grass Clippings Reminder

Please do not place grass clippings or yard waste in the roadway. City Code considers this litter, and it is against City Ordinance to throw or deposit litter in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public places within the City. Thank you for keeping our roadways safe and free from litter.

If you have grass clippings that need disposal, Prairieland Disposal offers yard waste collection services. Grass clippings must be placed in a paper bag, box, or disposal container and may not weigh over fifty pounds. Prairieland Disposal will not accept loose piles of grass or other yard waste. The pick-up of grass clippings will occur on your weekly regular pick-up day, from April 1 to November 30.



A HOUSE DEVOTED TO FAITH

BY DIANA KENNEY

For over 100 years, the property at the southwest corner of Oak Street and Crystal Lake Avenue (10 S. Oak) was owned by members of the Jennings and McNamee families, who were dedicated and devoted to their Catholic faith. Their home was known as "Maryville".

In 1914, Elizabeth S. Jennings purchased three acres of land at this corner for $2,700. Soon after, a house, garage, and elevated grotto were erected. A grotto is a small picturesque cave, often found in a park or garden. The Jennings' grotto was a religious structure with a statue of the Virgin Mary placed inside.

Elizabeth Jennings was born in Quebec, Canada in 1860. She was one of twelve children. Her parents were Irish immigrants. Elizabeth worked in Chicago for many years. It is believed she purchased the property in Crystal Lake to spend her retirement years and to provide a tranquil and spiritual retreat location for her siblings and extended family. While living in Crystal Lake, Elizabeth was an active member of St. Thomas Parish.

When Elizabeth died in 1932, stewardship of her beloved "Maryville" was assumed by her younger brother, Rev. James J. Jennings, who was rector at Presentation Catholic Church, near Garfield Park in Chicago. Father Jennings voluntarily left his parish and retired to Crystal Lake.

Father Jennings was one of the few priests in the country to hold the special privilege to have a chapel in his home where mass could be said. He received this privilege from Pope Benedict XV, going to the Vatican to receive this acknowledgement. Father Jennings said daily mass in the in-home chapel at "Maryville". After his death in 1940, the chapel became just another room in the house. The house was sold and proceeds from the sale of "Maryville" went to the Catholic Church.

The new owner, Charles J. McNamee, really wasn't new to the home. He was a cousin of the Jennings family, and also a devoted Catholic. Charles and Hazel McNamee had three children. Daughter Rose became a nun, son Charles Jr. became a priest, and daughter Loretta never married but lived with her parents in the house.

A large collection of McNamee photos were recently donated to the Crystal Lake Historical Society and show a family devoted to their faith and beloved property. The garden grotto at "Maryville" retained its statue of the Virgin Mary, and many photos show family members climbing the steps to the grotto to honor Mary.

In 1953 and 1954, the McNamee family hosted a May Crowning event for the neighborhood children. A May Crowning is a Catholic tradition. Sometime in early May, children would gather flowers to lay at the feet of the Virgin Mary statue. One child was selected to "crown" the statue with a ring of flowers. In 1954, Marie Vinci, age 3, was chosen to do the crowning. After the crowning ceremony, the McNamees hosted a party for the children, serving cakes and cookies on a table setup in their yard.



Marie Vinci and an unknown attendant standing in front of the grotto shortly after the 1954 May Crowning event

Loretta McNamee, the last surviving McNamee family member, died in 2016. The property has since been sold a couple of times. The original Jennings/ McNamee house still stands; but the grotto, the family's visible symbol of faith, has been removed and is now just a memory.



"Maryville" – shortly after construction

About the Author: Diana Kenney is an appointed member of the City of Crystal Lake's Historic Preservation Commission, and President of the Crystal Lake Historical Society. To contact Diana email info@cl-hs.org

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Join The Lifeguarding Team

The starting hourly rate for lifeguards is $15.00.
The beach at Three Oaks provides a fun and team-friendly environment.

If you are interested in joining our lifeguard team, please visit www.crystallake.org to complete an application from the Human Resources page.

Boat Rentals

Rowboats will be available to rent, while human-powered watercraft will become available once the water temperature warms up.

Rowboat Pricing
Rental rates are for two hours

	Regular Rate	Resident Rate	Additional Hour
12' Combo	$25	$22	$10
14' Combo	$28	$24	$12

Watercraft Pricing
Rental Rates are for one hour

	Regular Rate	Add 1/2 Hour	Resident Rate	Add 1/2 Hour
Canoe	$12	$4	$8	$4
Kayak	$12	$4	$8	$4
Paddle Boat	$12	$4	$8	$4

Hours

Park
Open daily from 6:30 a.m. to sunset.

Marina
Saturdays & Sundays: 6:30 a.m. to sunset.
Weekdays: Open Daily. Please check the Three Oaks Recreation Area page on the City web site for weekday hours.

Swim Beach
Open daily beginning May 28th, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., weather permitting.

Scuba Zone
Open daily beginning mid to late May, 8:00 a.m. to sunset. Check web site for more information.

Please call the Rainout Line at (815) 506-9333 for more information about the operational hours for each amenity.



5517 Northwest Highway, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
https://www.crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation
Information Line: (815) 356-2447 Rainout Line: (815) 506-9333

Blue Star Banner Program

The Blue Star Banner Program and the City of Crystal Lake are privileged to have honored 99 local heroes serving in the United States Armed Forces. The Blue Star Banner program recognizes active-duty Crystal Lake residents. Displaying personalized banners along a section of Route 14 known as "Heroes Row."

Highlighting our service members who bravely and honorably serve our nation is a fitting way to underscore the patriotism of our City. It helps bridge the military and civilian community gap, so residents better understand that the banners are the stories of our heroes, the freedom they defend, and the sacrifices they make for us. We are all impacted by our service members' dedication and commitment to safeguarding our country. Their service and sacrifices for our freedom deserve to be honored.

The Blue Star Banner Program has a newly developed website at www.bluestarcl.com/. The site has program information, Nomination Forms, Sponsorship Forms, and contact information, along with news and updates.

The Program is very grateful to our donors and sponsors. Donors make it possible for the Program to continue, showing our appreciation to those dedicated to our country We are also appreciative of local families or individuals nominating a loved one for a banner.

The Blue Star Banner Program
Crystal Lake

Refuse, Recycling, and Yard Waste Update

Disposal of Needles and Sharps

The Crystal Lake Police Department, City Hall, and Fire Rescue Department do not accept used needles and sharps. Disposal locations can be found in the McHenry County Green Guide.

Contract Rate Increase

Effective May 1, the monthly refuse, recycling, and yard waste rate will increase by 3%, per the contract between the City and Prairieland Disposal/Lakeshore Recycling Systems.

	Previous Rates	**New Rates**
Single-Family	$17.74	**$18.27**
Senior Rate	$15.98	**$16.46**
Multi-Family	$14.19	**$14.62**

Important Dates to Remember:

Week of May 30, 2022: Collection delayed by one day do to Memorial Day holiday.
September 12-16, 2022: Electronics collection week.
Week of November 27, 2022: Last week of yard waste collection.

Downtown Crystal Lake: Garden Party And Spring Flower Sale

Join the celebration of spring with a Garden Party in Downtown Crystal Lake! Make plans to check out the flowers for sale at Downtown Crystal Lake's Spring Flower Sale on Saturday, May 21, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers from Downtown Crystal Lake will be selling hanging baskets and planters with beautiful blooming plants from Countryside Flower Shop & Nursery. Flowers will be on sale at the corner of Brink Street & Williams Street, this event will be a fundraiser for Downtown Crystal Lake/Main Street.

Saturday, May 21, 2022, will be a wonderful day to enjoy Downtown Crystal Lake. With lively music playing throughout the day, beautiful flowers for sale, children's activities, window decorating, and a festive atmosphere throughout Downtown. You'll have a "spring" in your step! Visit the garden-themed craft fair, make plans to go out for breakfast or lunch, and support your favorite downtown merchants.
So much is happening in Downtown Crystal Lake. You won't want to miss anything! "LIKE" Downtown Crystal Lake on Facebook to keep informed. Or, visit Downtown Crystal Lake's website at www.DowntownCL.org.





Spring is in the Air: Enjoy Outdoor Dining in Crystal Lake

Spring is in full swing so come out and enjoy a day in Crystal Lake! Public seating areas are located in Downtown Crystal Lake in the Depot Park near the train station and at the Brink Street Market. Both are public places for individuals to relax, socialize and enjoy meals or drinks from local coffee shops and restaurants. Come pick up a bite to eat at one of our many restaurants and enjoy it while relaxing outdoors under the string lit trees in Depot Park. Visit the Brink Street Market seating area with a cupcake, ice cream or coffee; where you can take a break from shopping just steps from the many retailers in downtown Crystal Lake.

In addition to enhanced public amenities, many restaurants offer outdoor dining along the public sidewalk. Visit a restaurant for an opportunity to relax and enjoy the ambiance of the community. Come to Downtown Crystal Lake to shop, dine, and relax. Check out the wide variety of fun activities and events offered throughout the community.

Looking to dine outside? Visit our website for a list of outdoor dining options!

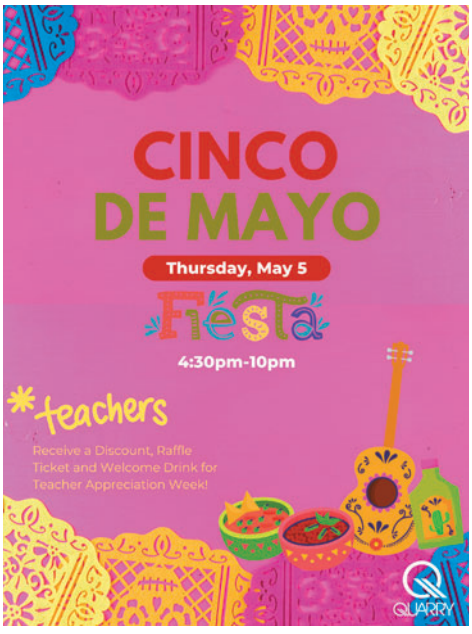




Quarry Kick-Off!

May is one of the best months at the Quarry. During May, the Quarry welcomes back riders and patio patrons! Starting May 6, the Bar & Grille will be open on weekends (weather permitting). The Bar & Grille will celebrate the opening with Quarry Kick-Off Weekend from May 27-29; enjoy live music Friday, Saturday, AND Sunday! Bring the whole family to soak up the late spring sun and dine alfresco while enjoying live entertainment and watching the wakeboarders break in the lake. Volleyball courts and baggo sets are also available to be reserved. Join the festivities earlier in the month, on May 5 for Cinco de Mayo and May 7 for Derby Day. Follow Quarry events on Facebook for more details, or visit the Quarry's website at www.thequarrycablepark.com/.

Riders, there is still time to buy your Lake Season Pass or Multi-Ride Pass now and enjoy wakeboarding all summer long! Purchases can be made at https://www.thequarrycablepark.com/shop/. Summer Wakeboarding Camps will be offered from June through August. Camps do fill up fast, so book NOW!







Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service



May 30, 2022

The City of Crystal Lake Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 30, 2022. The event will be held according to guidelines issued by State and local health agencies.

The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at Central High School and runs east on Franklin Avenue, north on Williams Street, and west on Woodstock Street to Union Cemetery, where a Memorial Service is held.

If you are interested in participating in the parade, please complete the application below, and return the application to Melanie Nebel at the City of Crystal Lake by email at mnebel@crystallake.org, by fax at (815) 356-3780 or by mail at 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014. If you have any questions, please contact Melanie Nebel at (815) 459-2020.

As a reminder, the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service is a solemn event intended to honor Veterans and those who have given their lives for their country. Please do not distribute candy or fliers during the parade, and please keep marching units and floats consistent with the nature of this event.

APPLICATION

VETERANS

Name of Individual/Group: _____

Contact Person:_____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Branch of Service: _____

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person:_____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Unit: _____ # of Participants: _____

Indemnity/Hold Harmless For Use of City-Owned Property
To the fullest extent permitted by law, the undersigned hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees, against all injuries, deaths, loss, damages, claims, suits, liabilities, judgments, cost and expenses (including attorney fees), which may in anyway accrue against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees arising in whole or part or in consequence of the use of City-owned property by the undersigned, its employees, agents, subcontractors and/or 3rd party, or which may in anyway result therefore, except that arising out of the sole legal cause of the City of Crystal Lake, its agents or employees. The User of City-owned property shall, at its own expense, appear, defend and pay all charges of attorneys and all costs and other expenses arising therefore or incurred in connections therewith, and, if any judgment shall be rendered against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, in any such action, the User shall, at its own expense, satisfy and discharge the same.

Agreed this _____ day of _____, 20_____

_____ _____

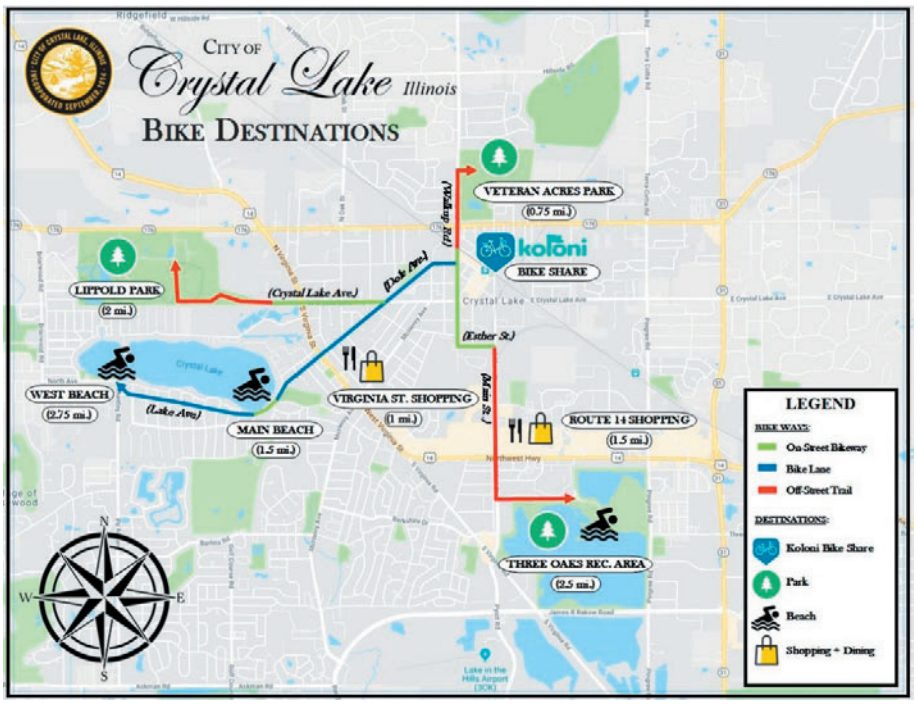
(Signature of User) (Please Print Name)

May: National Bike Month

With spring in full bloom and summer on the horizon, now is a great time to hop on a bike and enjoy what Crystal Lake has to offer! Don't have a bike? No problem, take advantage of the Koloni Bike Share Program being offered by Naturally McHenry County in partnership with the City.

Hop on one of the rentable bikes at the Downtown Crystal Lake Metra Station and explore the many parks in Crystal Lake. Take a ride to Crystal Lake and stop by the beach for the summer sun. Ride out to Three Oaks Recreation Area to enjoy the beach, walking paths, splash pad, volleyball, boating, fishing, paddle boarding at The Board House or one of the many events offered by the Quarry Cable Park. If you're looking to reconnect with nature, enjoy a ride to Veteran Acres Park or Lippold Park.

When biking, make sure to follow the appropriate steps to guarantee a trip that is as safe as it is fun. Wear a helmet while biking; over half of all bicycle head injuries occur when the biker is not wearing a helmet. Crystal Lake offers plenty of bike lanes or multi-use paths. When Biking Downtown, park your bike at one of the bike racks and walk around while shopping or dining.





CALENDAR | MAY 2022

Tuesday, May 3

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

Wednesday, May 4

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

Tuesday, May 17

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

Wednesday May 18

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

Monday, May 30

- Memorial Day Parade & ceremony to follow, 11:00 a.m.
- City Hall Closed



City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

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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.