City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Crystal Lake Public Poll – Downtown Enhancements

The City of Crystal Lake is taking a comprehensive look at Public Place enhancement opportunities in Downtown Crystal Lake. What is a Public Place? Public Places are the streets, plazas, parks, and open spaces that make up Downtown. Downtown is a historical and cultural center for our community. It is a place where local businesses thrive, where commuters travel to and from, and where friends and neighbors gather. While we work to protect the charming character of our Downtown, the City continues to explore ways for improvement.

This study aims to gauge community interest and support in developing features that would continue to elevate Downtown with welcoming spaces to dine, shop, do business, and gather. Potential enhancements could include new seating areas, additional landscaping, or places for more community gatherings or events.

Gathering community feedback is an important step in the study's process. Once feedback is collected, plans can be refined, and a proposal would be presented. At this time, we need your help - please take a moment to participate in the poll; your perspective is important to us!

(Link to the Public Poll found on Page 5)

Water Rate Change Page 5

Trick-or-Treats Hours Page 7

Quarry Cable Park Page 7

POLICE DEPARTMENT

National School Bus Safety Week

Held during the third full week of October each year, National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program. This week is an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus operators, school administrators, and other interested parties to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety.

Remember to stop for a school bus when traveling:

- On a two-lane road, all lanes must stop if a school bus has the stop arm out.
- On a multi-lane, one-way street, all lanes must stop if a school bus has the stop arm out.
- On a four-lane road, if a school bus has the stop arm out, all lanes heading the direction of the bus must stop.



Reducing Motor Vehicle Theft

In 2020, more than three-quarters of a million vehicles were stolen in the United States and about half of those thefts were due to driver error. Vehicle theft is a multi-billion-dollar crime, costing vehicle owners more than $7 billion in 2020 alone. Passenger cars made up more than 74% of all stolen motor vehicles.

Use common sense when parking and exiting your vehicle:

- Take your vehicle's key; do not leave it in or on your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas if possible.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they can be seen from outside the vehicle.

Thieves want vehicle parts and valuable items.
Radios and wheel covers aren't the only popular stolen vehicle parts thieves take, they want whatever sells. Some of the most popular vehicle parts or valuable items stolen from vehicles include doors, engines, transmissions, airbags, radios, GPS units, cell phones, iPads, laptops, and purses.



Adult Halloween Safety

Much of Halloween safety focuses on the traditional concept of keeping children safe during their yearly adventure to trick-or-treat. Still, there is another important part of Halloween that requires attention. Adult Halloween parties can be a fun and exciting opportunity to participate in the "spooky season", but they have their own host of safety concerns that are important to keep in mind!

Be a responsible party host when holding any parties. Remember that social host liability laws may hold you responsible for parties where underage people drink, regardless of who furnishes the alcohol, and you could be held legally responsible for your guests' behavior after they leave your party.

Adult parties may involve more than just fun Halloween-themed cocktails. Designate a sober driver, call a taxi, or use a rideshare service. Someone who's impaired shouldn't be making decisions about driving; that's why planning ahead is key. In 2019, 49% of drivers who were killed in crashes and were tested for drugs, tested positive.

Source: Halloween - drug impaired | Traffic Safety Marketing

Follow The Crystal Lake Police Department!

Scan this QR code with your phone and follow our Facebook to stay up to date on the latest news, events, and safety tips!

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

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Off-Season Hours of Operation

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

Trails & Shoreline Fishing: The park and trails will be open daily throughout the fall and winter. The East Trail is accessible at the southern end of the park, extending from the marina building. The West Trail is accessible near the Lake House entrance. Multiple shelters and picnic tables are available on each trail, along with convenient shoreline fishing locations.

www.Crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation
Email: threeoaks@crystallake.org

5517 Northwest Highway Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Information Line: (815) 356-2447
Rainout Line: (815) 506-9333

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Week™ : October 9-15, 2022!

According to NFPA data, 74 percent of all U.S. fire deaths occur in homes. Homes today burn hotter and faster than in years past, minimizing the time allowed to escape safely. In most current cases, you would have as little as two minutes to escape from the time the smoke alarm sounds.

This year's Fire Prevention theme is "Fire Won't Wait. Plan Your Escape." By creating a home escape plan with all members of your household and practicing it regularly, you can ensure that everyone will know what to do when the smoke alarm sounds and escapes quickly and safely.

- Make sure your home escape plan meets the needs of all your family members, including those with sensory or physical disabilities.
- Smoke alarms should be installed inside every sleeping room, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of your home. Smoke alarms should be interconnected so that when one sounds, they all sound.
- Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible. Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Have an outside meeting place a safe distance from your home where everyone should meet.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the household, including guests. Practice at least once during the day and at night.
- For more information about Fire Prevention Week and fire prevention in general, visit fpw.org and sparky.org.



The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department reminds residents that "Fire won't wait. Plan your escape.™"

Follow The Crystal Lake Fire Department!

SCAN ME

Scan this QR code to follow us on Facebook for all the latest updates!

Fire Prevention Open House

When: Saturday, October 8, 2022 from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.
Where: Fire Station One: 100 W. Woodstock St.

We invite all ages to the fire station for a free day of fun and learning! The event will include fire safety activities, apparatus display, blood pressure checks, interactive safety displays, an arson dog demonstration, snacks, games, & more!

(Continued from page 1)

CRYSTAL LAKE DOWNTOWN PUBLIC PLACE STUDY

Help us plan for future improvements to public places in Downtown – take the poll!

Join us as we take a comprehensive look at Public Place development opportunities -- the streets, plazas, parks, and open spaces that make up Downtown Crystal Lake. The purpose of this Public Place study is to gauge community interest in developing features that would continue to support Downtown with welcoming spaces to dine, to shop, to do business, and to gather.

Please take a few minutes to answer the questions in this poll and provide your thoughts about how we can improve Downtown Crystal Lake.



Take the poll today!

https://teska.survey.fm/crystal-lake-public-place-poll

The poll closes October 15th

Scan me with your camera

Your perspective is important to us!

If you have questions about the Downtown Public Place Study, please contact:
Kathryn Cowlin, Community Development Director | City of Crystal Lake | 815 356 3798

Water Rate Change

In November, Crystal Lake residents will see a small change on monthly utility bills to the amounts charged for water and sewer. In April, a water and sewer user fee increase of 3% was approved as part of the 2022/2023 fiscal year budget.

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 average rate when compared to neighboring communities.

	Previous	New	Difference	
Water Rate				Senior Citizen discount will remain at 20% on the first 5,000 gallons used each month
Monthly service charge	$7.80	$8.03	$0.23	
Each 1,000 gallons	$5.31	$5.47	$0.16	
Sewer Rate				
Monthly service charge	$9.30	$9.58	$0.28	
Each 1,000 gallons	$5.32	$5.48	$0.16	

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	$59.62	$61.41	$1.79
10,000 gallons per month	$123.40	$127.11	$3.71

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.

THE CRYSTAL LODGE

DIANA KENNEY

At the intersection of Route 14 and Virginia Road stands a Walgreens Drug Store. Less than 20 years ago, The John Evans Inn restaurant stood there. But who remembers its predecessors: Czecho Lodge, Peterson's Lodge, Fritzel's Crystal Lodge, or simply The Crystal Lodge?

In 1928, Adolph "Al" Renard and Harry Scott leased land at this corner with the intent to build a restaurant, calling it "The Crystal Lodge". The duo hired local contractors to construct a 50' by 90' building with basement. The main floor consisted of a kitchen, soda fountain, and a large ballroom with tables & chairs for dining and plenty of room for dancing. In keeping with its name, the restaurant was decorated similar to a hunting lodge.

The grand opening of The Crystal Lodge was held Saturday, June 16, 1928. The opening was held in the form of a dinner dance with music being furnished by Hank Keating and his Royal Serenaders. Admission was restricted to couples only. The community loved this new dining/dancing venue. Each Saturday night, an orchestra was hired to play at The Crystal Lodge.

In early 1929, trouble started to surface for Renard and Scott. In February, Al Renard was charged with selling alcohol (Prohibition was in effect from 1920 to 1936, making it illegal to produce or sell intoxicating liquors). He pled guilty and was fined $700. Unable to pay the fine, his Cadillac coupe was sold at auction by the McHenry County Sheriff for $700. In May, 1929 eight lawsuits totaling $17,000 were filed against Renard and Scott by local contractors for non-payment of bills relating to the construction of The Crystal Lodge. Unable to pay the bills, Renard and Scott forfeited ownership of the business.

The Crystal Lodge was leased to John "Scotty" Rich, who vowed to continue the tradition of dinner and dancing on Saturday nights. The dancing season ran from Spring until Fall. Scotty Rich came up with a novel use of the ballroom during the winter months. He installed a removable indoor miniature golf course on his dance floor.



The Crystal Lodge, May 1930

In the Spring, the ballroom was once again used for dancing to the sounds of orchestras such as Bob Johnston and his Bostonians, Christy Flanagan's South Sea Island Orchestra, Frankie Gans and his Recording Skylarks, and The Moonlight Serenaders.

In July 1931, Federal prohibition agents made a surprise raid on 12 businesses in Lake and McHenry County which were under the control of George "Bugs" Moran, who was a well-known Chicago mobster. Scotty Rich's Crystal Lodge was one of those businesses. The agents seized both beer and alcohol. John "Scotty" Rich was arrested and taken to Chicago for arraignment. He bailed out, and one month later he was arrested again for running slot machines at The Crystal Lodge.

For the next two years, Scotty's name stayed out of the newspapers while he continued to run the business. In July 1933, his wife Louise filed for divorce, charging him with "extreme and repeated cruelty." As part of the settlement, Scotty gave up his management rights of The Crystal Lodge. Why are we not surprised that six weeks later, The Crystal Lodge was the scene of a holdup? Five gunmen showed up on a Saturday night, firing shots into the floor, terrorizing patrons and staff, while clearing the place of all cash. Perhaps this was an act of retaliation by Scotty and his mob affiliates?

For the next two years, Joe Lyons was the proprietor. Lyons helped to "clean-up" the business, still offering those popular dining and dancing options. In 1938, the business was sold to Edward L. Biel. Biel was very community-minded, hosting numerous fundraising events for charities. For example, in February 1938 he donated the use of the Lodge and the orchestra with all profits going to the Service League. In 1940, George Fritzel purchased the business, adding his name to the front and calling it, "Fritzel's Crystal Lodge". By then the Crystal Lodge had a reputation for good food and good music. Its ties to the mob, gambling and illegal activity was now in the distant past.



Fritzels Crystal Lodge

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

The Quarry Corner: October

Have yourself a merry little...market! The Quarry's annual Merry Market is fast approaching. The Quarry Cable Park looks forward to enjoying two full days of shopping and welcoming over 20 vendors on November 4 and 5. Elevated vendors are local to Crystal Lake and the surrounding areas. Shop for candles, knits, jewelry, clothing, home decor, handcrafted soaps, and more. Enjoy a selection of desserts, a custom grille menu, along with holiday cocktails, and warm beverages such as the season's favorite hot cocoa.

As a reminder, along with select year-round community events, the Quarry is also open throughout the year for private events and corporate events. This holiday season, let us do the hosting.

Book your "Friendsgivings", Holiday Parties, Family Gatherings, Showers, Happy Hours, and other important events at the Quarry. To inquire about private events, please complete an event request on the website, www.thequarrycablepark.com or email events@thequarrycablepark.com.



Downtown Crystal Lake Events

Ladies, bring your mothers, sisters, daughters, and girlfriends (whomever!) to Downtown Crystal Lake for fabulous shopping, special deals, and more!

The Ladies Night Out event is FREE to all ladies. Come downtown on Thursday October 6 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and check out all of the special promotions. Explore the great deals and shop at your favorite boutiques. Plan to stay for dinner at one of our yummy downtown restaurants. Make a night of it!

Be sure to also save the date for Downtown Crystal Lake's Halloween Handout that will be held on Monday, October 31 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Participating merchants throughout Downtown Crystal Lake will open their doors and invite costumed children ages 12 and under to receive a treat.

Downtown Crystal Lake/Main Street is a 501(C)3 organization with a mission to preserve and enhance the Historic Downtown District as the heart of Crystal Lake and provide for a successful business and residential environment that communicates a sense of community pride, heritage, and small town wholesomeness as a lasting legacy for future generations.

Visit the Downtown Crystal Lake website: www.DowntownCL.org for a list of participating businesses. Questions? Call 815/479-0835.

CALENDAR | OCTOBER 2022

Monday, October 4
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Monday, October 18
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Monday, October 31
Crystal Lake Trick-or-Treating, 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 5
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 19
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

All Meetings at City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street

City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

MAYOR
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COUNCILMEMBER
Ellen Brady
Cathy A. Ferguson
Brett Hopkins
Cameron Hubbard
Mandy Montford
Ian Philpot

CITY CLERK
Nick Kachiroubas

INTERIM CITY MANAGER
Eric Helm

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Emergency Only
911

All Other Departments
(Non-Emergency)
815-459-2020

www.crystallake.org

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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 www.crystallake.org.

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