City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Christmas in Downtown Crystal Lake

Join us for memorable Nights in Downtown Crystal Lake! Downtown will come alive on Thursday nights with fun holiday happenings from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M. on December 1, 8, and 15. Join us for carolers, Santa House visits, and lots of holiday surprises in the glowing and festive Downtown Crystal Lake.

Christmas Tree Lane is coming back for another season of glitter and sparkle in Downtown Crystal Lake. Forty custom-decorated Christmas trees line the path around the gazebo in Depot Park by the Downtown Metra Station. Featuring themes based upon the sponsor, some offer gifts, knowledge, and silliness, and all are spectacularly trimmed.

Designed and maintained by churches, nonprofits, service groups, and businesses, each tree shares an important message for the holiday. Families visiting Santa's House in Brink Street Market often start their journey at Christmas Tree Lane in what is called "Peppermint Park". Families can make memories strolling through this very walkable and beautifully lit park in the heart of Crystal Lake.

The trees will be on display until December 31. They are beautiful during the day and spectacular when lighted at night. A complete list of all tree sponsors can be found on the Downtown Crystal Lake website: www.DowntownCL.org.

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Coffee With the Chief

Are you interested in learning about the Police's Social Worker Program? Come out to Coffee with the Chief on December 13, 2022, from 6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M., located at City Hall 100 W. Woodstock Street. Coffee and light snacks will be served. You will have the opportunity for Q & A with Chief Black and participate in a presentation given to you by our very own Police Social Worker.

To RSVP for this event, please contact Officer Sal Alfano via email at salfano@crystallake.org or by calling (815)444-5956.



Protect Your Pockets While Holiday Shopping

Are you heading to a festival, market, or other public events? We want you to be safe and secure. Often, pickpockets target a loose purse or pack on a shopping cart or basket. Make sure you keep your belongings secure and out of sight.

Throughout The Holidays, the Crystal Lake Police Department will also be on the roads for traffic and DUI enforcement. Remember, if you feel different, you drive different.

Marine Corps Reserve's "Toys for Tots"

The Crystal Lake Police Department collects new unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots Program every year. The toys that are collected are wrapped and distributed to many children residing in McHenry County.

Now through Monday, December 26th, 2022, please help the Crystal Lake Police Department by donating a new unwrapped toy in the marked Toys for Tots cardboard box in the Police Department lobby. Together, we can make a child's holiday special.



Winter Safety

- Make sure there is plenty of space between your car and the vehicle ahead of you. It can take TEN TIMES AS LONG to stop on ice and snow compared to dry roads.
- Always clear ALL the windows and lights on your car of snow and ice prior to heading out on the roads.
- Always drive appropriately for the weather conditions. Even if you're driving under the speed limit, you may be going too fast to be safe on wintry roads.
- Stock your car with an ice scraper, snow brush, booster cables, extra gloves, and a blanket just in case of an emergency.

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

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

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

What To Do After the Snow Falls?

It's that time of year again when Crystal Lake winter weather operations kick into gear! As we enter into the winter season, here are a few helpful reminders from our Public Works Department:

1. Arterial streets are plowed first since all side streets funnel into these heavier-used roads.
2. Secondary streets, such as residential and local streets, are plowed next.
3. When shoveling your driveways, snow should be placed to the left of the driveway (to the left if facing the driveway), as this helps our plow drivers push the snow into the appropriate areas.
4. Snow should be cleared from fire hydrants to assist the Fire Rescue Department.
5. Residents are asked not to park on City streets at night. Parking is prohibited from 2:00 A.M. to 6:00 A.M.

Public Works and the City would like to remind residents that depositing snow onto City streets or a neighboring property is prohibited. City crews work hard to make sure our roads are safe for travel.

Pushing snow onto the City streets causes unsafe conditions for motorists. Please be a good neighbor and ensure that the snow that falls on your property stays on your property.



If you have any questions regarding winter season operations, please contact the Public Works Department at 815-356-3614.

Metra Parking Update

The company for parking payments at the Metra parking lot is changing from Passport to Parkmobile. With Parkmobile, payments can be made through their app, using the QR code that is located on the signage on the machines, and in the train station parking lot.

Payments can be made through the Park Mobile app.

ParkMobile

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Keep the Wreath Red

Let's "Keep the Wreath Red" this holiday season! Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department's "Keep the Wreath Red" program runs from Thanksgiving through January 1st to increase fire safety awareness during the holiday season. Green wreaths with red bulbs are hung outside each of the three Crystal Lake Fire Rescue stations. A red bulb will be replaced with a white bulb in the unfortunate event of a holiday-related fire. Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department offers these safety tips:

- Fresh trees should be deep green and have a strong pine scent.
- Water fresh-cut Christmas trees daily.
- Discard lights and cords that are worn or not in good working order.
- Do not overload electrical outlets.
- Do not run extension cords under carpets, across doorways, or near heaters.
- Unplug lights and extinguish candles when you leave home or go to bed.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire.
- Use sturdy candle holders.



- Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of children's reach.
- Make sure your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working correctly.
- Have furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, and chimneys inspected.

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Needs Your Help

Hydrants can quickly vanish under snow drifts when the snow starts to fall. Even if you can see the hydrant, it needs to be shoveled out to be used. When snow remains high around a hydrant, it can become encased with ice, making it inoperable.

In the case of a fire, the longer it takes to find/access a hydrant and clear it for usage, the longer it takes to fight a fire or rescue those who might be inside a burning structure. If there is a hydrant on or near your property, please keep it clear of snow and ice, and clear a 3-foot perimeter around it.

Please also maintain a path from the hydrant to the street for quick emergency access.



Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department
(815) 356-3640

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Join The Team!

Applications are being accepted to join us this upcoming 2023 season! Seasonal Lifeguards, Cashiers, and Marina Attendant roles are available. For position details, visit the City of Crystal Lake Human Resources Employment page and complete an employment application today!

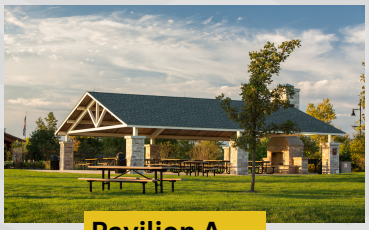
How to Reserve a Pavilion

Visit our website and click on the Online Rental Portal.

- Check pavilion availability on the calendar. If you see a blank date, that means the pavilion is available!
- Create an account on the portal to access at any time, or login to your existing account.
- Submit a request for your desired date and pavilion.
- City staff will review your rental and either approve or reject the request.
- Pay online within 24 hours of staff approval to complete your reservation.

Important Note: Your pavilion will not officially be reserved until it has been approved by staff and full 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.

All pavilion details and related FAQ forms are available on our website under the Pavilion Rentals tab. Should you have any questions, please contact City staff at (815) 459-2020, ext. 4288.



Pavilion A
Picnic Grove



Pavilion B
Island Pavilion



Pavilion C
Volleyball Court



Pavilion D
North Lake



Lake House Patio
After Labor Day Only

PAVILION RENTAL RESERVATIONS

Reservation for 2023 will begin on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. Reservations for the Pavilions can be made online or in person. Use the link below to access the online rental section of the Crystal Lake Website:

https://bit.ly/3TYCPFs

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

CHRISTMAS AT THE DOLE

DIANA KENNEY

In 1922, Mrs. Eliza “Lou” Ringling and a group of investors known as the Lake Development Company, purchased the Dole Mansion property (including the mansion, farm and lakefront property) from the Consumers Ice Company. The transaction involved nearly a half million dollars and was one of the largest real estate deals handled in the area.

The improvements at Crystal Lake included the subdivision and sale of approximately three hundred acres of land on the south shore of Crystal Lake. Remnants of the old ice houses were hauled away. This subdivision was called Country Club Additions and included the “Gates” along today’s Lake Avenue.

The Dole Mansion and remaining property would become home to the Crystal Lake Country Club. Construction of an 18-hole golf course began almost immediately after the property was purchased. Under the guidance of Mrs. Ringling, the interior of the Dole Mansion was meticulously renovated and redecorated with new furniture and fixtures. Painters and decorators worked to refinish the woodwork and parquet floors to their original beauty.



Dole Mansion - "Country Club Era"

In 1953, long-time Crystal Lake resident, Edith Eldred, shared her memories of the first Christmas at the Country Club’s newly renovated clubhouse, The Dole Mansion.The Eldred family was one of the first to join the club. Edith enjoys “dropping names” while describing the activities. She writes:

“We gathered there to visit, sitting on the big davenports and easy chairs which were drawn close to the huge fireplaces, of which there were three. One of white Carrara marble in the drawing room, an exquisitely hand-carved wooden mantel in the library, and a third mantel with intricate wooden shelves and brackets in the dining room (this fireplace remains today), each with its cheerful, crackling log fire.”

“We lounged in front of the fireplaces with bowls of popcorn and cups of eggnog, singing songs and listening to Mosey Lyman’s funny stories told in her clever dialects. Della and Bera Robbin were bustling about. Gene Hoy was our genial host with his smiling wife, Elizabeth. Yes, the Breytspraaks were there too--so young and gay!”

“I will always remember the beautiful parquet floors, the large rooms with their high ceilings of embossed plaster, and the lovely old black walnut woodwork. Then too, the handsome nine-foot doors through which neighbors were entering and leaving all evening; skaters and tobogganers stopping to warm themselves at the big fireplace. The Rudolph Muellers, the Arvid Ekstroms, the Paul Schroeders, Lou and Herbert Burton with young Herbie, and dear old Dr. Hull—all were there. Of course, Grace and Ed Bessey came in with Bill and Irving Cochrane--two cute and mischievous little boys, Claude and Ede Brown, Elizabeth Kirchberg, Willard and Mildred Cobb and the Charles Brunckhorst family.”

“Soon it was time to return to our own homes. There were no houses around the club—just acres of snowy ground with lovely big snow-laden trees. We bundled ourselves up in our scarves, coats, boots and leggings and opened the huge doors, when jingling sleigh bells broke the winter stillness. It was Gladys and Austin Selz in a sleigh drawn by two farm horses! The work of starting our four-cylinder car was under way—sputter, sputter, chug, chug, sputter, and we started for home in the crisp snowy night. I remember the stars were so very bright and the calls of “Good Night and Merry Christmas”.

Wishing each person who reads this will recall their own sweet memories and enjoy this holiday season with family and friends.

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

Help Support the Crystal Lake Historical Society

Support the Crystal Lake Historical Society and its efforts to preserve our community’s history by purchasing a 2023 Crystal Lake Calendar. This year’s theme is, “Celebrations in Time”. Each month of the calendar features various ways Crystal Lake has celebrated through the years. Calendars are available at: City of Crystal Lake, Heisler’s Bootery, The Inside Scoop Ice Cream and online: www.cl-hs.org.

Green Business Designation Program

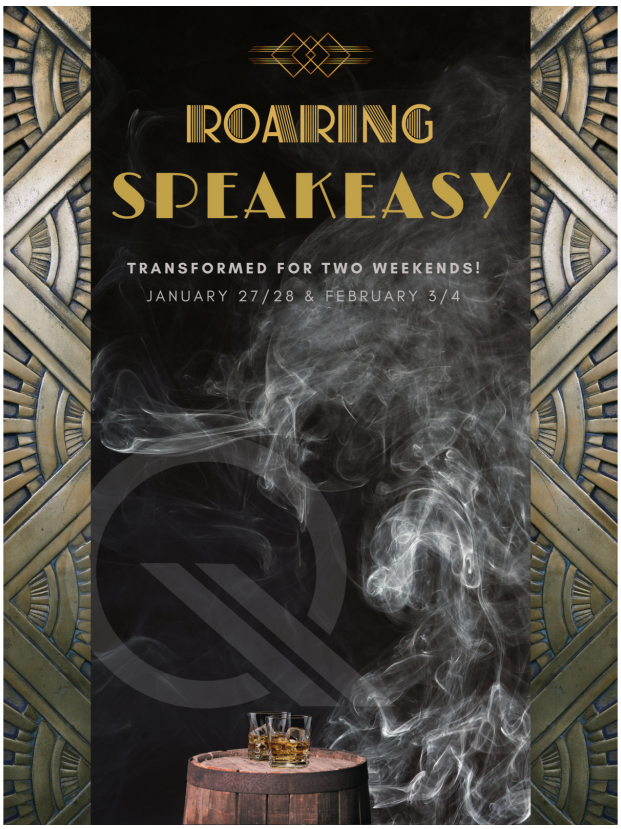
The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee is now accepting applications from local businesses for the Green Business Designation program. This program has been created to recognize Crystal Lake businesses engaging in environmentally friendly practices. The six areas of achievement are listed below, and applicants are not obligated to fill out all six categories:

- Water quality and conservation
- Energy conservation
- Promoting healthy ecosystems
- Handling of waste
- Maintaining or improving air quality
- Education of employees about green initiatives

Crystal Lake businesses are invited to complete an application for the program. Applications will be accepted until January 31, 2023. Please visit the City's Sustainability Committee web page at www.crystallake.org to access the application link. Please contact Nick Hammonds at (815) 356-3675 with any questions.

The Quarry Corner: December

On January 27 and 28 and February 3 and 4, the Quarry will be hosting "speakeasy" themed events. The Quarry will take us back to the Roaring '20s and will be transformed into a speakeasy in the New Year! Come dressed to impress Gatsby, find the secret entrance, and enter a world of mysterious wonder. Live music and custom cocktails will help set the mood for the 21+ event. This event will also feature little surprises here and there.



LRS Electronics Collections

LRS, the City's refuse and recycling collection provider hosts an electronics collection event twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. the next event will be hosted this March from March 6 - 11, 2023. The City will keep residents informed on the details of this event throughout the year on the City's Facebook page and in future Newsletters.

CALENDAR | DECEMBER 2022

Tuesday, December 6
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

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

Tuesday, December 20
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 21
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Friday, December 23
City Hall Offices closed

Monday, December 26
City Hall Offices Closed

All Meetings at City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street

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
Eric Helm

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: https://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 www.crystallake.org.

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