City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Bob Blazier Run for the Arts

On Sunday, May 7th, at 8 a.m., the Raue Center is pleased to host the 26th annual Bob Blazier Run For the Arts. This year participants are encouraged to roll out of bed and join the 5K run (or 1 Mile walk) in their favorite PJs, nightgowns, or sleepwear!

The race will start and finish at the Raue Center and run/walk through the beautiful residential streets of Crystal Lake.

The run will feature a national anthem performance from Voices in Harmony as well as a home stretch drumline courtesy of the Crystal Lake Strikers. Top finishers in each age group will receive medals while the top overall runners and largest team will take home coveted Bob-Bobbleheads. The "Blazier Run" is a great way to honor one of Crystal Lake's most dedicated community members as well as raise money for Raue Center and its mission to bring the arts to all! Register at www.rauecenter.org/bob-blazier-run-for-the-arts/ and don't forget your PJs!

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Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service

The City of Crystal Lake Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 29, 2023.

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, please complete the application below, and return 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)

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Earth Day: April 22, 2023

At Three Oaks Recreation Area, we like to recognize native plants year-round, but Earth Day is a special day to be reminded of the natural beauty the park has to offer. Come enjoy the walking trails to see some of Illinois' Native Plants!



Photo Credit: Linnea Maria

Fishing Boats

Weather permitting, boat rentals will begin Saturday, April 22, 2023. The Marina will be open weekends only in April. Only fishing boats will be available during this time due to the colder temperature of the water.

For operational status of the Marina, please call the Rainout Line at (815) 506-9333. For all other questions regarding Marina rentals, please call our Information Line at (815) 356-2447.



Photo Credit: Paul McPherson

Calendar Reminders

April

- Saturdays and Sundays:
  - The Marina will be open beginning April 22,. Please call the Rainout Line at (815) 506-9333 or visit our website for more information.

May

- Saturdays and Sundays:
  - The Marina is open 6:30 a. m. - sunset.
- Mondays-Fridays:
  - The Marina will open, with limited hours. Please call the Rainout Line at (815) 506-9333 or visit our website for more information.
- Saturday, May 27:
  - The Swim Beach opens for the season at 10:00 a.m., weather permitting.
  - The Scuba Zone opens for the season at 8:00 a.m., weather permitting.

June

- Saturdays: Open Water Swim begins, weather permitting. Please visit our website for more information.

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

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Spring Weather Safety

Now that the snow is melting and temperatures are climbing, the weather conditions can create dangerous storms. To remain safe, it is vital to be familiar with what to do when severe spring weather occurs.

What is the difference between a storm/tornado "watch" and a "warning"?

A watch is issued when storm/tornado conditions are present and a storm/tornado is possible. Stay tuned to forecast updates and sky conditions, and be prepared to take shelter.

A warning is issued when a storm/tornado is happening or about to happen, and you should take shelter immediately. Prepare yourself for dangerous spring storms.

In the event of severe weather, multiple outdoor warning sirens are placed strategically throughout the City. These sirens are intended to notify as many people as possible of a tornado warning. Sirens activate when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for McHenry County, and Crystal Lake finds itself in the storm's track.

If you're inside a building, use an NOAA all-hazard radio or an app that broadcasts National Weather Service alerts to receive information and updates. The sirens will NOT be activated to indicate an "ALL CLEAR." Do not call 911 when you hear the siren. Seek shelter immediately and use your NOAA radio for updates.

Sirens are tested on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. for one minute.

See www.weather.gov/safety for additional information.



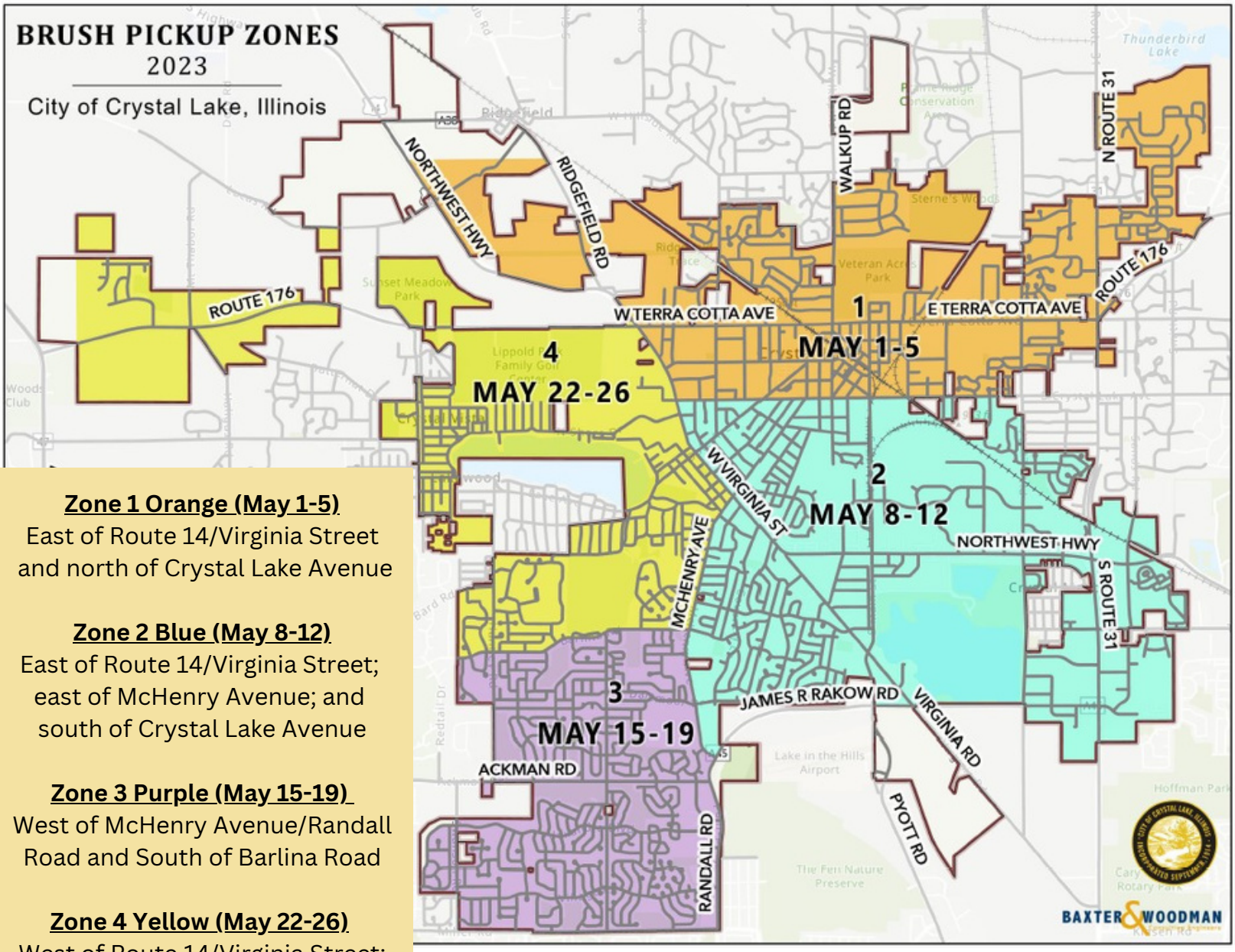
Stay Informed!

Purchase an All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio available at most retailers, or visit the below websites for more Emergency Alerting options:

- www.ready.gov/alerts
- www.nixle.com
- www.weather.gov/subscribe
- www.mchenryaware.com

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department
(815) 356-3640

Annual Brush Collection Program



Zone 1 Orange (May 1-5)
East of Route 14/Virginia Street and north of Crystal Lake Avenue

Zone 2 Blue (May 8-12)
East of Route 14/Virginia Street; east of McHenry Avenue; and south of Crystal Lake Avenue

Zone 3 Purple (May 15-19)
West of McHenry Avenue/Randall Road and South of Barlina Road

Zone 4 Yellow (May 22-26)
West of Route 14/Virginia Street; west of McHenry Avenue; and north of Barlina Road

Please have brush at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the Monday of your pick-up week. Brush must be six inches or less in diameter and six feet or less in length to be accepted. Other materials will not be collected.

Utility Billing Payment Portal Changes

The City is implementing new software for utility billing payments, with more features than ever, starting May 2023. While the payment portal will look a little different, the payments will all remain completely secure and seamless to our customers.

Anyone currently enrolled in auto pay with a credit/debit card will be receiving additional instructions with their May bill. Contact the City's Finance Department with any questions at 815-459-2020.

LOOKING UP AT NATURE

DIANA KENNEY

Just outside the front door of the Nature Center Building at Veteran Acres Park stands a 20-foot carved totem pole. The base of the totem pole is surrounded by native plants, creating a rugged, natural environment for this wooden wonder.

The totem pole was carved by former Crystal Lake resident, Maurice Norman. Several years ago, I interviewed Mr. Norman, who was living in Tomahawk, WI at the time. This amazing man was an artist, a sculptor, a historian, and more! His attention to detail and thirst for knowledge was evident in our conversation. In his own words, he tells the history of the totem pole at Veteran Acres Park.

Mr. Norman shares, “A totem is a symbol of a family, group or tribe. Totem poles were prominent in western Canada and northwestern United States.The totem pole that I carved is as original as I could make it, depicting a thunderbird on the top with a white pelican, an owl, a fox, a beaver and a bear with a fish in its mouth.”



The totem pole today

He continues, “I was a member of a carving club. Nothing formal, just a local group of guys who liked to carve. We were asked to carve a totem pole for the Nature Center, and since I was the only one who had enough space to carve a big totem pole, I got the job! At that time, I lived on a farm on Ballard Road, just west of Crystal Lake. My woodcarving studio was a large barn which was attached to a garage. I told them I would do the project, but I needed a hunk of wood. The Park District worked with Commonwealth Edison to get a large, industrial-sized utility pole donated for the carving. The pole was delivered to my garage, but it was so big, we had to punch a hole in the back wall. The pole stuck out about 10 feet out of the back of the building.”

Describing how he carved the totem pole, Mr. Norman recalls, “The pole was made of western white cedar. The wingspan is a separate piece of white pine. The first thing I did was plan for 4-5 feet at the lower butt end of the pole to go in the ground. Above that, I began to square up the pole, making it ready for carving. A totem pole is a three-sided carving with a flat back.I worked out a method to turn the pole.There’s a tool that the railroad used, and it’s called a Johnson Bar. It’s kind of a pinch bar that railroad workers would put under the wheels of a railroad car to move it a few feet. I had one of those. I would always carve from the top down. I would roll it over, then carve on one side, then carve on the top, then I’d roll it back to the other side. I didn’t use power tools. I use standard hand-carving tools including a mallet, chisel and gouge.”

When asked how long it took to carve the totem pole, Maurice Norman quickly answered, “Right to the minute it takes me exactly from beginning to end.” <pause> He continues, “There is no “time” on a thing like that. You don’t start it and carve it. You work on it days and evenings and afternoons. Time is not a factor in carving. It is a labor of art.”

So, the next time you go to the Nature Center at Veteran Acres Park, take time to look up at nature and marvel at the hand-carved artistry of Maurice Norman.

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.

Prescription Drug Take Back

On Saturday, April 22, the Crystal Lake Police Department will participate in the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Community Clean-up Day event.



The Police Department will collect your old or unwanted prescription drugs from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The Department will have a squad car parked in front of the Chamber building at McCormick Park, 427 W. Virginia Street.

Items NOT accepted:

- Needles (Sharps)
- Ointments, Lotions, or Liquids
- Thermometers
- Inhalers
- Hydrogen Peroxide

Please remove all labels or blackout information containing names, phone numbers, addresses, and doctor's information.

Crystal Lake Community Clean Up Day

The Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce along with Crystal Lake Park District and the City of Crystal Lake will host their annual Community Clean-Up Event Day on Saturday, April 22, 2022, beginning at 8:30 a.m. at McCormick Park located at 427 W. Virginia Street.

- Gloves, safety vests, and bags will be made available to all volunteers to help in the clean up of our public parks.
- The Kiwanis Club of Crystal Lake is sponsoring a paper/document shredding truck from AMS Store and Shred. Customers can bring up to two Bankers Boxes for shredding. The truck is first come, first served, and will leave when at capacity. Please remove all spiral bindings, metal strips, and large clips.
- Douglas Automotive located at 123 E. Virginia Road will be accepting car batteries, used motor oil, anti-freeze, and up to four unmounted car tires (no large vehicle tires) at their location on 4/22 from 9:00 a.m.-noon ONLY.
- Community Clean Up Corporate Challenge- The business with the most participants will win a prize!
- The Police Department will collect your old or unwanted prescription drugs from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

All participants are encouraged to come to McCormick Park for supplies, park assignments, and complimentary donuts the morning of the event and return after their clean-up for an appreciation lunch-while supplies last.

Large groups of eight or more should register with the Park District prior to the event by calling 815-455-1763.

This FREE event is rain or shine. Please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 815-459-1300 or visit www.clchamber.com for more information.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thank you Donors of the Polar Plunge!

On March 5, 2023, Crystal Lake's Main Beach hosted the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Members of the community, the Crystal Lake Police Department and many other organizations and other law enforcement agencies took the plunge to raise awareness for the athletes of Special Olympics Illinois.

The Crystal Lake Police Department came in 2nd place overall for raising donations, at just under $13,000. Officer Alfano earned the top donor award out of 30 different police departments, raising more than $7,500.

We would like to thank the following organizations for your generous contribution to our event: Leader Automotive Group, Ultra Strobe, Nondas Plesiotis McDonald's Family, Pauly Toyota, Crystal Lake MAP Local 177, Arlington Lanes, Chilo's Restraunt, 7 Eleven on McHenry Avenue, 7 Eleven on Northwest Highway, Jim M'lady Nissan, Women's Fellowship First Congregational Church, Summer Moon Coffee, Huntley Scanner, and RJ Pantry & Liquor.

We thank all those from the community who donated and supported our efforts and hope you were able to come out and see us! Come see us next year in March of 2024!



Distracted Drivers Awareness Month

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving has become a deadly epidemic on our roads. While drivers texting behind the wheel tops what seems like an endless list of distractions, other risky actions include talking — whether it be on the phone or to others in the car, setting your navigation, adjusting what you're listening to, drinking coffee, applying makeup, and more. By driving distracted, you're robbing yourself of seconds that you may need to avoid a close call or deadly crash.



Drive Responsibly!

- Need to send a text? Pull over and park your car in a safe location. Only then is it safe to send or read a text.
- Designate your passenger as your "designated texter." Allow them access to your phone to respond to calls or messages.
- Do not scroll through apps, including social media, while driving. Cell phone use can be habit-forming. Struggling to not text and drive? Put the cell phone in the trunk, glove box, or back seat of the vehicle until you arrive at your destination.

2023 Police Department Citizen Survey



The Crystal Lake Police Department is conducting a citizen survey to collect citizens input about crime, police services, and how the City can best serve the community's needs. Residents can complete the citizen survey via a link on the City's website home page, the below QR code, or by grabbing a hard copy in our lobby located at 100 W. Woodstock Street, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The survey ends May 31, 2023, allowing residents to provide input and suggestions regarding police services. Surveys are a valuable tool for the Police Department; giving feedback helps improve police services provided to our residents.

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620
Officer Sal Alfano - (815) 444-5956 or by email at salfano@crystallake.org

follow The CLPD on Facebook to stay up to date on the latest news, events, and safety tips!

Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee

Saturday, April 22, 2023, is Earth Day, and the City's Sustainability Committee focuses on promoting the environment and educating others to do their part to make Crystal Lake more sustainable. Every resident can help the environment by reducing vehicle idling, practicing proper recycling, being mindful of water use, and using natural landscaping to minimize the need to mow your lawn. Please visit the Sustainability Committee page on the City's website for more information.



Green Business Designation Program

The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee received seven applications from local businesses and organizations for the 2023 Green Business Designation program. This program was created to recognize local businesses engaging in environmentally friendly practices, including energy conservation, promoting healthy ecosystems, and proper waste handling.

The City would like to recognize Duke's Alehouse and Pique Technologies as Green Businesses for the second year in a row. The City would also like to recognize Aptar Group, Hoffman Orthodontics, and The Green Read for receiving their first awards. In addition, McHenry County College and the Crystal Lake Park District submitted applications for recognition as a green organization. Congratulations to all of our awarded organizations! Please keep a look out on the City's social media pages for posts highlighting the sustainable actions taken by each organization.

The program will accept applications beginning in September for the 2024 recognition season. Please contact Nick Hammonds at nhammonds@crystallake.org or (815) 356-3675 with any questions.

What's the Buzz in Crystal Lake?

Bees in your Community

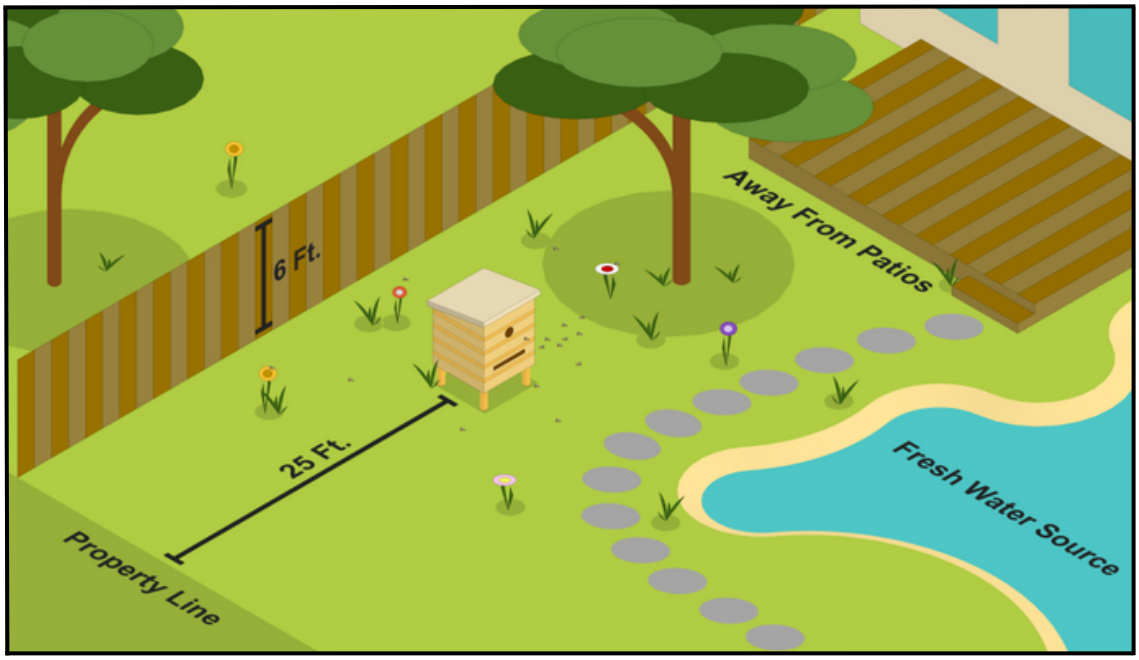
With beekeeping growing in popularity nationwide, many Crystal Lake neighbors are choosing to enhance their gardens and flowerbeds by keeping bees. Beekeeping can be a fun way to help the local ecosystem flourish through cross pollination, while also producing delicious honey! You should know that the City of Crystal Lake requires a Limited Use Permit for bee production within City limits. This helps ensure that bee colonies don't disturb nearby properties or harm neighbors and pets.



Beekeeping Requirements

- No more than two hives may be kept on lots under 10,000 square feet in area. Every additional 10,000 square feet in lot area permits one additional hive.
- Hives are not permitted in front or corner side yards. Hives must be placed at least 25 feet from any property line, unless screened by a barrier or vegetated fence at least 6 feet tall. Screened hives may be placed less than 25 feet from the property line. Alternatively, hives may be raised at least 6 feet high to direct the bees' flight upward.
- Hive entrances must be oriented away from the vicinity of patios, decks, balconies or entrances to living spaces on adjoining properties.
- A supply of fresh water must be maintained on site which is accessible to all bee colonies. This is to prevent bees from congregating in nearby swimming pools or other bodies of water.
- No Africanized bees may be kept on the property.
- All colonies must be managed to promote gentleness and mitigate swarming. Any colony exhibiting aggressive behavior without provocation will be destroyed or re-queened by the beekeeper with a queen bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.
- Proof of colony registration with the State of Illinois Department of Agriculture must be provided.

If you have questions, please contact Community Development at (815) 356-3605.



The Quarry Corner: April

Warmer days are ahead, and The Quarry Cable Park can't wait for the various community events and the grand opening of the 2023 summer season. Before the cables are spinning this summer, visit the annual Spring Market, formally known as the Mother's Day Market. Sip and shop your way through 20-plus vendors from the Chicagoland area. The Market will take place on April 28 and April 29.

Summer Camp sign-up is now open! Sign your child up for this fun three-half-day beginner wakeboarding camp. Campers will learn the basics of wakeboarding on our 2.0 system. You can find more information at thequarrycablepark.com under the Cable Park tab. Summer Season will kick off over Memorial Day Weekend!



Economic Development

- Guzman Y Gomez, located at 5459 Northwest Highway, opened its third location in the Chicago area. A new international fast-casual restaurant serving burritos, nachos, tacos, nacho fries.
- Congratulations Nelson's Jewelry on celebrating your 60th Anniversary! Nelson's Jewelry is a family-owned store for a wide selection of jewelry, watches, loose diamonds & repairs.

GUZMAN Y GOMEZ™ Mexican Taqueria

Nelson's JEWELRY

CALENDAR | APRIL 2023

Tuesday, April 4
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M

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

Tuesday, April 18
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M

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

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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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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