City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Downtown Garden Party

Join us as we celebrate Spring with a Garden Party in Downtown Crystal Lake! Make plans to purchase flowers at Downtown Crystal Lake's Spring Flower Sale Fundraiser on Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Volunteers from Downtown Crystal Lake will be selling hanging baskets and planters with beautiful blooming plants from Countryside Flower shop & Nursery. This is the perfect opportunity to pick flowers for your Mother's Day gifts. Flowers will be on sale at the corner of Brink Street and Williams Street.

Thanks to the local flower shop Countryside, this fundraiser will benefit Downtown Crystal Lake/Main Street, a 501c3 that preserves and enhances our Historic Downtown District.

Saturday May 6 will be a wonderful day to enjoy Downtown Crystal Lake. With lively music playing throughout the day, beautiful flowers for sale, children's activities, dancers, window decorating, and a festive atmosphere throughout Downtown, you will surely have a "spring" in your step! Visit the Garden themed craft fair and plan 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.

Visit the organizations website at www.DowntownCL.org or call 815.479.0835 for more information on this event and all things Downtown Crystal Lake!

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FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Emergency Medical Services Week

May 21 through 27 is the 48th annual National EMS Week. President Gerald Ford authorized Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week in 1974 to recognize and celebrate EMS practitioners and their vital work to our nation's communities.

In Crystal Lake, each Firefighter is also certified and trained as a Paramedic. This means that in addition to fighting fires, citizens can be assured that each Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department member is ready and prepared to respond to any emergency at any time.

EMS Week allows communities and medical personnel to honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." We proudly recognize EMS and all that its practitioners do for our nation every day.



Home Pool Safety

- Secure your pool with appropriate fences, gates, and barriers.
- Designate a “water watcher” that remains within an 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 and safe behaviors.
- Ensure every member of your family learns to swim.
- Know what to do in a water emergency.



DID YOU KNOW?

69% of young children who drown were not expected to be in or near water.

Life Jacket Safety

When should a life jacket be worn?

- Small children and weak swimmers should wear life jackets anytime they are near water.
- Everyone should wear life jackets while in oceans or open water.
- Everyone should wear life jackets when boating, or doing water-based sports.
- Everyone should wear life jackets whenever they are 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 for proper function and discard any jacket with torn fabric or loose straps.
- Put life jackets on and practice swimming in them.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Citizen Survey

The Crystal Lake Police Department is conducting a citizen survey to identify citizen concerns about crime, police services, and how the City can best serve the needs of the community. Residents can complete the citizen survey via a link on both the City's website home page, the QR code to the right, and by grabbing a hard copy in our lobby located at 100 W. Woodstock Street Monday - Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. The survey will close on May 31, 2023. This allows residents the chance to provide input and suggestions regarding police services. Surveys such as these are a useful tool for the Police Department, providing feedback to help improve police services provided to our residents.



Get Ready for "Cop on a Rooftop"

2023 marked the 20th Anniversary of the Dunkin' and Illinois Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois partnership. This partnership has been a huge success over the years; in fact, more than $7.6 million has been raised in Illinois! The 2023 Cop on a Rooftop event is scheduled statewide for Friday, May 19 from 5 a.m. to noon Each guest who makes a donation to the Torch Run will receive a coupon for a free donut. Guests who donate $10 or more will receive a LETR/Dunkin' branded travel mug (while supplies last) and a coupon for a free medium hot coffee. Come support us by visiting BOTH Crystal Lake Dunkin locations!



Coffee With the Chief

Interested in learning about Ruse Burglaries and Common Scams in our area? Come out to Coffee with the Chief on June 13, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 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 as well as participating in a presentation given to you by our very own Detectives. To RSVP for this event, please contact Officer Stolzman via email at kstolzman@crystallake.org.

TOGETHER for Mental Health

May is a time to raise awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health issues and to help reduce the stigma so many experience. The stigma around mental health and treatment has long existed, even though this has started to change. People still hesitate to seek help or even talk about it with their loved ones for fear of being judged and facing unnecessary backlash. Simple logic dictates that if we are hurt anywhere, we must seek treatment to get better. This applies to both our mental- and physical well-being.

National Police Week 2023

National Police Week is May 14-20 2023! In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. National Police Week pay special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

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!

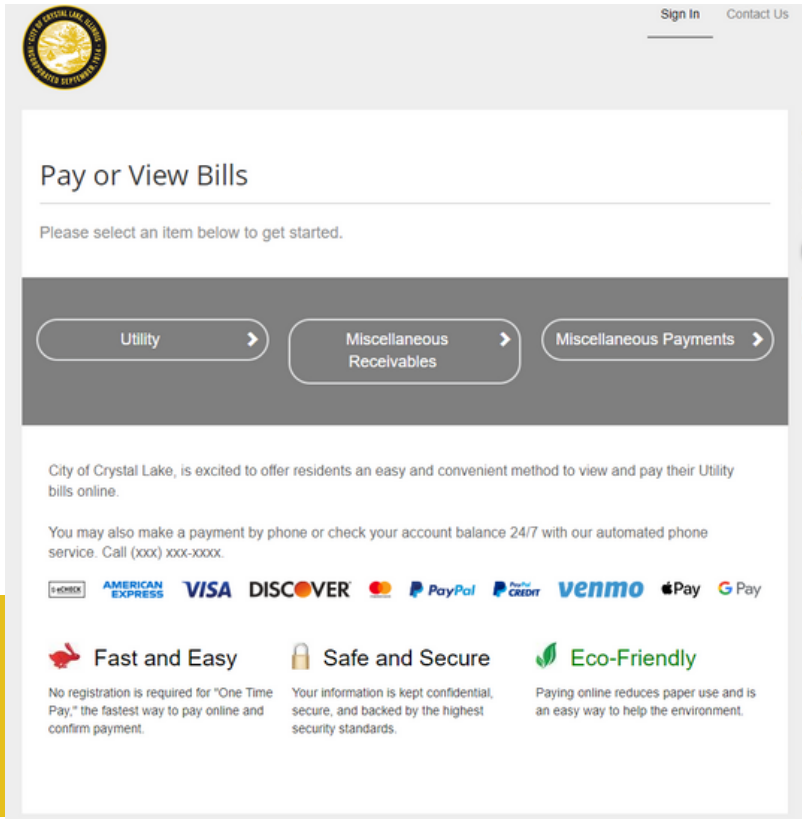
Utility Billing Update

Beginning in May, the City of Crystal Lake will be launching a new online payment platform for water bills. The new system will offer more features and additional payment options for our customers.

Residents that are currently enrolled for automatic online payments with their credit card will need to re-register in the new system in order to continue making these automatic payments. For any customers who are enrolled in the ACH program or pay through other methods, this change will not affect your account.

For more information including instructions on how to sign up, please visit the City's website at www.crystallake.org. If you have questions, please contact the Finance Department at 815-459-2020 or financedepartment@crystallake.org.

Interested in what the new payment page will look like for utility billing? The picture to the right shows what all residents will see when visiting and using the new page!



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Lifeguard Team

The starting wage for lifeguards at Three Oaks Recreation Area is $16.25 for the 2023 season. The beach provides a fun and exciting team friendly environment. If you are interested in joining our lifeguard team, please visit the City website to complete an application from the Human Resources page.

Boat Rentals

Row boats will be available to rent in May, while human-powered watercrafts will become available once the water temperature warms up. Boat rentals are all first come, first served as advanced registration will not be taken.

Please be aware, the marina may close at any time due to inclement weather. This includes, but is not limited to, high winds, anticipated thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, cold temperatures, severe weather, or if our lightning detection system sounds.





Fun Facts

- Three Oaks rented a total of 2,373 row boats and 3,834 human-powered watercrafts last season.
- In 2022, 32% of guests were from Crystal Lake, while 28% were from elsewhere in McHenry County. The remaining 40% traveled from other counties and states!

May Hours

Marina
Saturdays & Sundays: 6:30 a.m. to sunset.

Weekdays: Tentatively beginning mid to late May, 6:30 a.m. to sunset

Swim Beach
Open daily beginning May 27, 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

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

Open Water Swim



The Open Water Swimming season will be during the months of June and July.

Open Water Swims (OWS) at the Swim Beach are held on Saturday mornings. Our Lifeguard Team will set up an 850-meter triangular route with corner-buoys, and will oversee the swims in kayaks. Beginner and intermediate swimmers can swim at their own pace. All swimmers can choose to complete as many 850-meter laps as desired before the end of each series.

Registration and check-in begins 60 minutes prior to scheduled start times. The Open Water Swim fee is $5.00 each session, per participant.

Please check our website for more details on dates and times.

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

Memorial Day Parade and Service

The parade begins on May 29, 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 will be held.

Col. Patty Klop, US Marine Corps Reserve, will be the 2023 Parade and Ceremony Keynote Speaker. Of the 233 reserve colonels in the U.S. Marines, 22 are female. With 29 years of service, Col. Klop is still serving in the Reserves.

Col. Klop will be the first women keynote speaker since the parade has been held. She will speak about her personal story of enduring post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and her recovery treatment which has allowed her to feel fully whole again, in body, mind and spirit.

With two master's degrees and multiple personal trainer certificates, Col. Klop's military decorations are also extensive and include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal and two gold stars.

In addition to the Parade and Ceremony, Querhammer & Flagg Funeral Home is hosting a complimentary breakfast from 8:30 a. m. - 9:30 a.m. at their location (500 W. Terra Cotta Ave.) for all armed service members, active and retired, before heading to the Parade and Remembrance Service at Union Cemetery.



As a reminder, the Memorial Day Parade and the Cemetary 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.



How to Use an RRFB

(Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon)

Pedestrians and Bicyclists

Press the button to activate the RRFB signals; the lights will begin to flash indicating to motorists a pedestrian is ready to cross.

Pedestrians

1. Make eye contact with motorists to be sure traffic is yielding before entering the crosswalk.

2. Walk defensively, scanning both directions to be sure motorists see you.

3. Always scan the road while crossing making sure all vehicles have stopped.

Bicyclist

1. Obey all traffic signs and signals.

2. When using the crosswalk, follow the pedestrian rules.

3. When using the travel lane, ride in the direction of traffic and always yield to pedestrians.

(Continued on Page 8)

Motorists

Always stop for pedestrians and bicyclists at crosswalks

Motorists

1. Anticipate pedestrians crossing when approaching an RRFB.

2. Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.

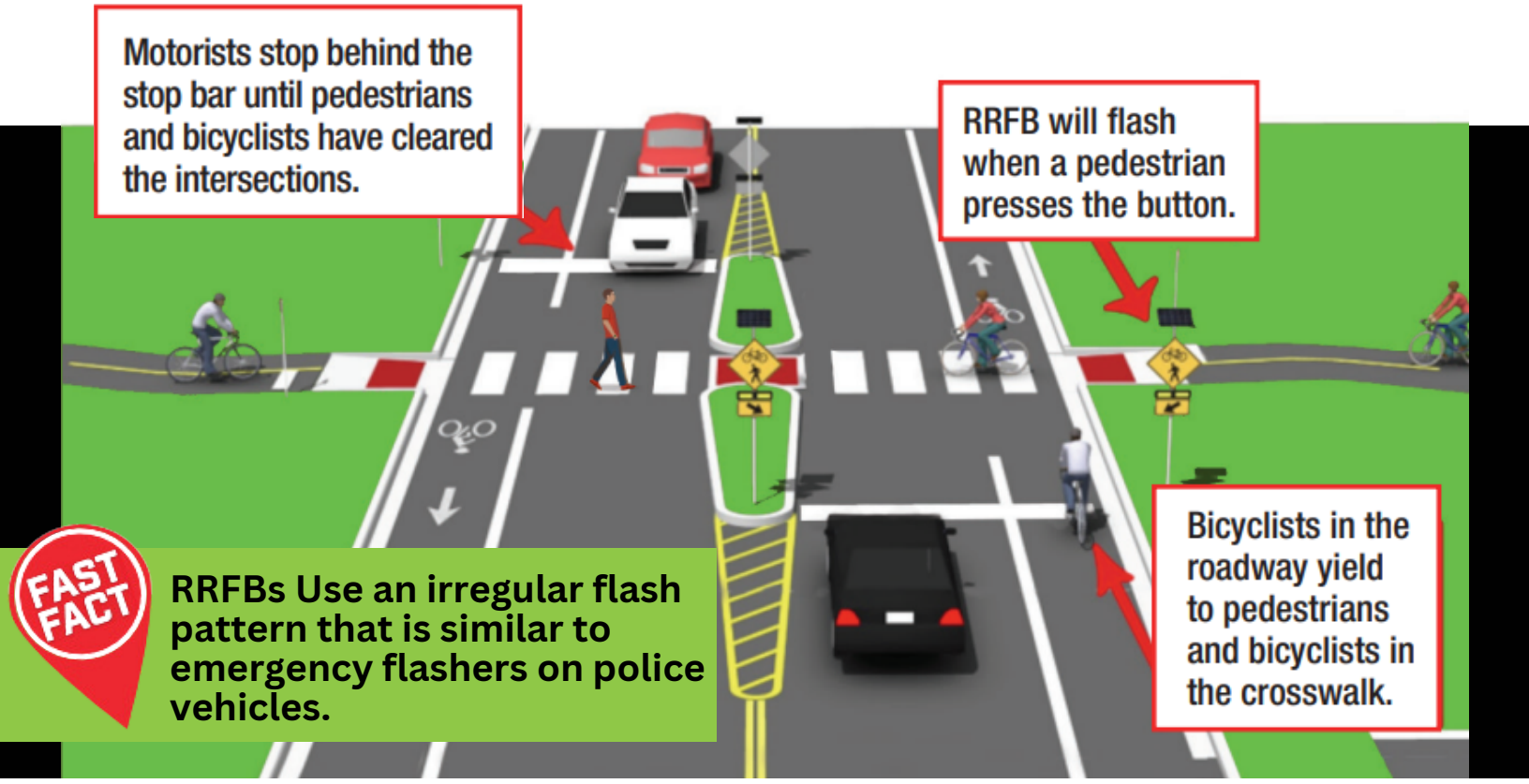
3. Always stop before the stop bar or “stop bar” pavement markings.

4. Never stop in or block a crosswalk.

5. Always stop for pedestrians entering or in a crosswalk.

6. Remain stopped for pedestrians regardless of activated RRFBs.

7. Wait for pedestrians to completely clear the crosswalk on your side of the road, and for anyone crossing into your lanes from the other direction.



FAST FACT

RRFBs Use an irregular flash pattern that is similar to emergency flashers on police vehicles.

LRS Spring Season Reminders

Yard Waste
The City's Refuse and recycling service, LRS, has begun its yearly yard waste collection program. For yard waste collection, please set out either the specialty yard waste tote that can be ordered through LRS or biodegradable bags, filled with all yard waste that you may have. Please also remember that there is a limit on the weight of all biodegradable bags of 50 pounds. This program will run through the second full week of December and then will once again start up in April of 2024.

Important Upcoming Dates
May 29, 2023: Standard collection will be delayed by one day for Memorial Day for the week following.

July 4, 2023: Standard collection will be delayed by one day for Independence Day for the week following.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact LRS at (847) 633-3577.

Refuse and Recycling Monthly Rate Increase

	Previous Rate	New Rate
Single Family	$18.27	$19.18
Senior Rate	$16.46	$17.28
Multi- family	$14.62	$15.35

Effective May 1st, the refuse, recycling and yard waste monthly rate will increase. Rate increases are based on CPI, but capped at 5%. Residents will be charged the amounts to the left amounts for refuse, recycling and yard waste effective May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee Resources

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 in a variety of ways. This spring, the following nonprofit organizations will hold events where residents can find native plants and conservation program information.

- The Land Conservancy of McHenry County is a resource for native plants and conservation programs for Crystal Lake residents. Please visit their website at www.conservemc.org.
- The Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee is holding a native plant sale on May 7. For more information, please visit their website at www.thewppc.org.
- The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County provide many sustainable resources, including Styrofoam recycling. Please visit their website at www.mcdef.org for more information.
- The Sustainability Committee's page on the Crystal Lake website contains numerous resources and information for residents to become more sustainable at www.crystallake.org.

Mayor's Monarch Pledge

The City of Crystal Lake received signatory recognition for the Mayor's Monarch Pledge in 2022. Not only is this the second year of recognition of the pledge, but it is the second year in a row! The City will be pursuing the pledge again in 2023 to continue its sustainable efforts. The action items being pursued in 2023 include the promotion of native plantings and signage at the City's native rain gardens. More information regarding the Monarch Pledge can be found on the National Wildlife Federation's website at www.nwf.org/mayorsmonarchportal.

HART'S FINER FOOD

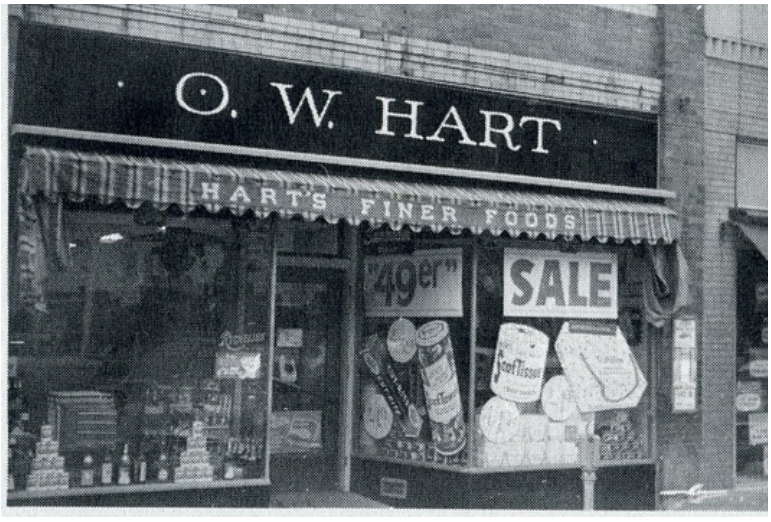
DIANA KENNEY

In 1932, Otto W. Hart took over the Park Store on Virginia Street (across from the City Park). Four years later, he moved his business, O.W. Hart Meat & Grocery Market to Crystal Lake's bustling downtown business district. The store was located on the west side of Williams Street (today's address is 64 N. Williams). Although there were already two other major grocery stores, A&P and National, on Williams Street, Otto Hart was confident his standards for high-quality foods and meat as well as personalized service would attract and keep customers loyal to Harts. And he was right.

Otto W. Hart was born December 3, 1892, in Riley Township. He grew up on a farm near Union, IL. In 1915, he married Martha Koch. He may have met Martha through his employer, Otto Koch. Koch, Martha's older brother, owned a general merchandise store in Union. The two Ottos worked well together and created a partnership known as Koch & Hart. By 1919, the duo had split the business. Koch stayed in Union to run his store while Otto Hart moved to Huntley to open his own general merchandise store.

Otto and Martha Hart had three children: Florence, Floyd, and Alice Mae. All three children were born in Huntley. With the purchase of the Park Store in 1932, the Hart family moved to Crystal Lake. Under Hart's ownership, the Park Store was transformed from a general merchandise store to a grocery and meat market. Hart offered exceptional customer service, and is quoted as saying, "We are a store where the customer is first."

The move to Williams Street in 1936 brought more improvements to the store. Hart invested in modern fixtures, freezers, increased product offerings and a fleet of two delivery vehicles, all with the customer in mind. The public was invited to a Friday night open house, complete with food demonstrations, refreshments and gifts for his customers. The turnout for the open house is described in the Herald with this photo caption, "Crowds Jam Hart Store."



The 1930s was an era when groceries were delivered by a kid on a bike or by car for larger orders. It was a time when one could call ahead with your list and your neighborhood grocer would gather up your order and have it ready and waiting for you. Customers kept a tab and paid monthly. And it was a time when customers entered a store and were greeted by their first name and a great big smile! All this and more made O.W. Hart's Meat & Grocery Market a huge success.

By 1945, Otto's son Floyd had returned from the Army and became associated with his father's business, then known as Hart's Finer Foods. The father-son duo continued to make improvements to the store, while keeping in mind, "The customer is first."

In 1961, after 45 years of store ownership in McHenry County, Otto W. Hart decided it was time to retire. His wish was to keep the business in the family and not sell to outsiders. His son Floyd and son-in-law Fred Kittredge (Alice's husband) decided to team up and take over Hart's Finer Foods. The duo continued for the next ten years, delivering good quality food and service to Crystal Lake residents. In 1971, Hart's lost its lease, and shuttered its doors for good.



Otto Hart, Floyd Hart, and Fred Kittredge

It may have taken a pandemic to bring back some of the personalized services that once were common place at Hart's Finer Foods. These services went away when big chain grocery stores entered the business, but were revived when COVID hit. Grocery delivery by a kid on a bike has been replaced with Insta-cart. Calling ahead and having the grocer gather your items is now known as curbside pickup. Keeping a tab and then paying the grocer monthly has been replaced with the use of credit cards.

these services are great, there's nothing that beats entering a business and having the owner look up, give you a great big smile and greet you by your first name!

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: May

Patio season is right around the corner and the Quarry is gearing up for another fun and exciting summer season!

Enjoy wakeboarding, live music (every Friday & Saturday night), community events, volleyball, and more! The Quarry looks forward to welcoming guests and both new and returning riders for the season kickoff over Memorial Day Weekend; with live music from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Our summer beginner wakeboard camps are now available. Camp includes land and water instruction, Quarry swag, daily lunch and a two-hour wristband + rentals to be used at a later date. Choose from ten different sessions throughout June, July and August.

Don't forget to book your private event in one of the lakeside event spaces. The Quarries event coordinator will help you create an unforgettable day to celebrate your special occasion. We can't wait to kick-off summer with all of you!



Heritage Trolley Tour

Enjoy a 45-minute trolley tour through Downtown Crystal Lake neighborhoods. Members of the Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission will narrate a fun and fascinating tour featuring Sears Kit Homes. Ticket price ($20 in advance / $25 day-of) includes a keepsake book with detailed articles and photos about the homes and their owners. This is a timed and ticketed event. Trolleys leave on the hour and half-hour from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.. The event frequently sells out, so get your tickets early! Any unsold tickets will be available on the day of the tour. Please direct any questions to City Planner, Elizabeth Maxwell 815-356-3738.



CALENDAR | MAY 2023

Tuesday, May 2
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M

Wednesday, May 3
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M

Thursday, May 4
Historic Preservation Commission, 7:00 P.M

Tuesday, May 16
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M

Wednesday, May 17
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 17
Sustainability Committee 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
Denise Smith
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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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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