City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Lakeside Festival and Independence Day Parade

In keeping with tradition, the City of Crystal Lake will celebrate Independence Day with the much-anticipated parade and fireworks. The Independence Day parade will kick off on Sunday, July 2, at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall. It follows its traditional 1.8-mile route from City Hall (100 W. Woodstock Street), continues down Dole Avenue, and finishes at the Lakeside Festival Grounds.

Don't miss out on the Annual Lakeside Festival, held on the grounds of the historic Dole Mansion, from Thursday, June 29, through Sunday, July 2. The Festival features live music, food booths, midway games, carnival rides, and a fun family atmosphere. The event is made possible thanks largely to many hardworking volunteers and sponsors. Lakeside Festival is the largest fundraiser for the Lakeside Legacy Foundation's year-round programs and events.

The Lakeside Festival festivities will conclude with the 2023 City of Crystal Lake fireworks show on Sunday, July 2. The fireworks will launch from Crystal Lake at dusk near Main Beach. The fireworks promise an exciting display for the entire family to enjoy.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy 4th of July.

Lakeside Festival Schedule

Thursday, June 29	3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday, July 30	12:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 1	12:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 2	12:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

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Flooding Hazard Information and Safety

FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

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 your gas company. 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.

(Continued on Page 3)

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, please visit the additional sources on the right.

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

Crystal Lake Public Library

City of Crystal Lake Website: www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/community-development/engineering/flood-hazard

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

National Night Out

National Night Out is a nationwide community-building event that promotes partnerships between local police departments and the communities they serve. This annual event provides a great opportunity to bring first responders and neighbors together under positive circumstances. The Crystal Lake Police Department believes the best way to build a safer community is to know your neighbors! We look forward to seeing you at the 2023 National Night Out!

This year's event will include many of the activities, events, and features that we have had at past National Nights Out, including,

- K-9 demo
- Touch-a-Truck display
- Food and entertainment from local businesses
- DJ
- Games/activities



National Night Out

When?

Thursday August 3rd, 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where?

Downtown Crystal Lake (Williams Street, south of Brink Street)

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Summer Sun and Skin Cancer Prevention

With the summer sun here and the weather finally at a point where it's nice to go out and "soak up some rays," it's important to remember the risks that can come from too much sun exposure. Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. According to the CDC, the easiest way to reduce skin cancer involves reducing exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light or those rays you're trying to soak up!

UV rays can cause premature aging and skin cancer and reach you even when trying to avoid it – penetrating clouds and glass and bouncing off snow, water, and sand. Moreover, sun damage accumulates over the years, from prolonged outdoor exposure to simple activities like walking the dog, going from your car to the store, and bringing in the mail.

UV light or sunlight is not only dangerous but also very sneaky. Taking a fully comprehensive approach is important to help deal with unexpected or often overlooked sun exposure. Use the tips below to help avoid and reduce the damage of exposure to the sun and its UV rays.

- **Seek shade.**
  - Especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- **Don't get sunburned.**
- **Avoid tanning and never use tanning beds.**
- **Cover up with clothing.**
  - Including a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses
- **Use a broad spectrum of sunscreen.**
  - With a minimum of SPF 15 and SPF 30 when spending prolonged time outdoors.
- **Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going outside.**
  - Reapply every two hours or after swimming or excessive sweating.
- **Keep newborns out of the sun.**
- **Use sunscreen on children over six months.**
- **See a dermatologist once a year for a professional skin exam.**

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department
(815) 356-3640

Crystal Lake Farmers Markets

Crystal Lake has two wonderful farmers markets, including the Downtown Farmers Market which has served our community for over a quarter century, and the Dole+ that has consistently ranked as a top farmers market in Illinois.

The Downtown Farmers Market is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Depot Park (Woodstock & Williams Streets) from June 17 through September 30. This traditional market offers a wide variety of fruits, vegetables, baked goods, plants, flowers, honey, olive oils, syrups, jams, jellies, and so much more! The market also features family-friendly activities such as children's crafts, demonstrations, and music. Stroll and shop the market, enjoy breakfast or lunch at one of our downtown restaurants and visit one of the over 180 locally owned businesses. Make a day of it! Additional information about the Downtown Crystal Lake Farmers Market is available at: www.DowntownCL.org or (815) 479-0835.

After you visit the downtown market on Saturday, don't miss the Sunday Dole+ market. located on the front lawn of the historic Dole Mansion from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 28 – October 29. Voted the #1 Farmers Market in Illinois with over 80+ vendors including farmers with fresh produce, specialty shops and food/drink vendors. The event has free admission and is pet friendly. The Dole+ market takes place rain or shine.

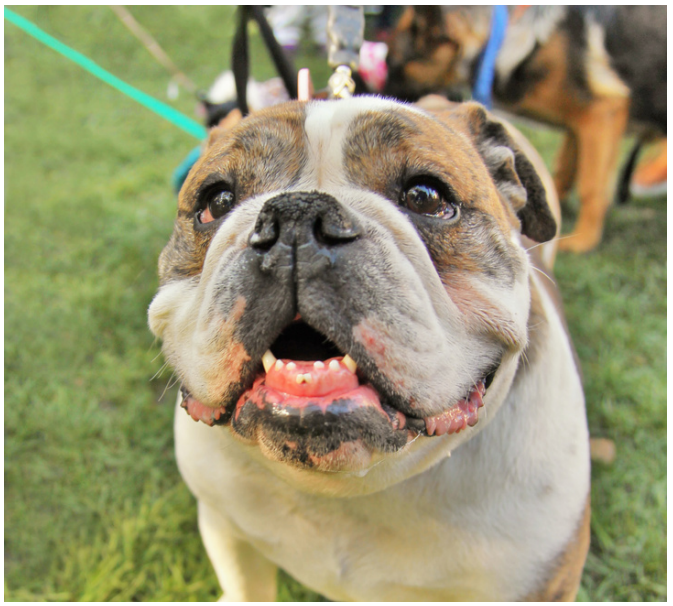
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Dog Leashing Ordinance Update

Following a review of City Ordinance 166-7 "*Leashing of Dog*", the language contained within the ordinance was updated and subsequently approved by City Council on June 6, 2023. The ordinance now states:

- *No animal shall be permitted, except on a leash, to use or be upon any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public place.*
- *No owner of an animal shall fail to control such animal on the owner's property through the means of a leash, fence or the immediate control of a responsible person to whose hand or voice commands the animal is obedient.*

Please be cognizant of this ordinance and leash your dog when required!



Be Mindful of Ruse Burglaries!

Crystal Lake and neighboring communities experience more "ruse" type residential burglaries in the spring and summer months. A Ruse burglary is considered a crime of deception, often involving more than one person posing as workers, repairmen, city employees, or other types of service employees (seal coating/roofing), often wearing a reflective orange vest. These individuals distract the homeowner (often senior citizens). At the same time, several other people enter the home and search for cash and jewelry to steal.

Is this an unplanned visit? Make sure to ask for identification and contact the utility company or department they represent to confirm the provided information. If someone you don't know knocks on your door and asks you to step out of your home for any reason, lock all doors before exiting and take your key with you, or don't comply. Do NOT allow anyone in your home unless you know them personally or it is a scheduled appointment. If you are suspicious at all, call 9-1-1 immediately.

Trust your intuition! If you suspect that you are a victim of a ruse burglary, call the police!

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

Officer Kristiana Stolzman - (815) 356-3673 or by email at kstolzman@crystallake.org

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

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Open Water Swim

Open Water Swim (OWS) sessions at the Lake House Swim Beach are held on Saturday mornings from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. and Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., weather permitting. Due to the holiday, there will be no Open Water Swim on July 1.

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

Thursdays: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
July 6, July 13, July 20, and July 27

Saturdays: 6:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
July 8, July 15, July 22, and July 29

Picnic Grounds

Three Oaks Recreation Area has many picnic grounds located throughout the park. The Picnic Grove surrounding Pavilion A is open to the public for lawn games, picnicking at the many available tables, and grilling out. Next, you'll find grassy sections of property adjacent to the swim beach, surrounding the playground and splash pad for guests to sunbathe, picnic, and play. Large overhead umbrellas to provide shade are included at the beach's picnic grounds.

All tables within the park's picnic grounds are available first-come, first-serve. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Hours

Marina
6:30 a.m. to sunset, weather permitting

Swim Beach
10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., weather permitting

Scuba Zone
8:00 a.m. to sunset, weather permitting

The Marina, Swim Beach, OWS, and Scuba Zone 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. To stay informed on weather conditions at Three Oaks, please check our Rainout Line at 815-506-9333.

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



Explore THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA



The Beach

Looking for a family getaway that isn't too far away? Then cool off at the Three Oaks Swim Beach this summer! While enjoying the beautiful views of the water and vast greenery of the park, check out the playground and splash pad located inside the Lake House Complex next to the beach.



The Marina

The Marina is home to many types of boats, such as kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, and fishing boats. If you're looking for a relaxing time out on the water or to catch some fish, The Three Oaks Recreation Area Marina has plenty of great opportunities.



Stand Up Paddleboarding

Looking to try something new, or are you looking for a new way to get around the lake? The Board House has the best option for you; from lessons for beginners to yoga on the water for those wanting more of a challenge, there is something for everyone.



The Quarry Cable Park

Enjoy 32 acres of wakeboarding while being pulled by cables from above with jumps and features on the water. The Quarry offers different cable levels to help beginners get started or fine-tune new skills for more experienced riders.

The Cottage on the Beach

Don't worry about packing lunch while enjoying a day at the beach. The Cottage on the Beach offers hamburgers, hot dogs, sandwiches, nachos, children's menu items, ice cream, and more.

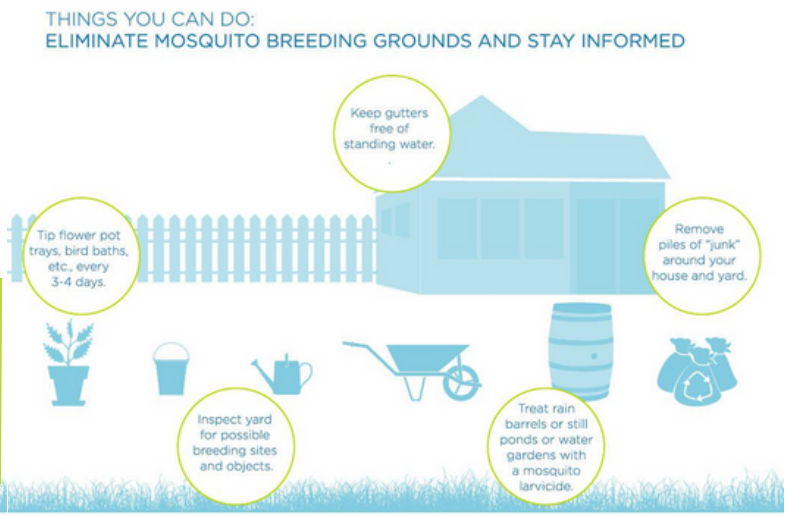
Mosquito Management

Crystal Lake has begun its annual efforts to minimize mosquito populations, reduce the risk of West Nile Virus transmission, and preserve our residents' overall comfort and quality of life.

The City has contracted with Clarke to provide our community with an integrated mosquito management program. This includes:

- Ongoing surveillance to monitor overall mosquito population levels and detect the presence of mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus
- Mapping known mosquito breeding sites throughout the community
- Applying larval control products to known or active mosquito breeding sites such as catch basins, storm drains, and standing water sites.
    - Larval mosquito control options for residents in backyard ponds, bird baths, planter saucers, and more can be found at local home goods stores such as Home Depot, Menards, Lowes, or ACE Hardware. Please review the label instructions and use them accordingly.
- When surveillance indicates a rise in the mosquito population or the presence of a mosquito-borne disease, Adult mosquito control treatments quickly reduce adult populations. This involves applying a very small amount of an EPA-registered adult mosquito control product (an adulticide) through an ultra-low-volume sprayer.

To help reduce the number of mosquitoes in the area, residents should do their part in "source reduction" by removing mosquito egg-laying and larvae development habitats. This can be done by eliminating standing water from natural or artificial containers such as bird baths, children's toys, abandoned tires, buckets, tree holes, or other debris in which water accumulates. This should be done about every four days during the summer season to be most effective.



Still Having Mosquito Issues?

Crystal Lake residents can access the Clarke Portal's Resident Hotline to report standing water or nuisance mosquito activity online and request pre-treatment notifications via email or text. To enroll, please call 1-800-942-2555 or visit www.clarkeportal.com/hotline.

Water Usage Reminder

Water is one of the area's greatest resources, but a finite supply is available. It is important to conserve water resources, especially in times of high demand and limited rainfall. To help reduce the City's peak water system demands, the Public Works Department has implemented a water conservation plan and color-coded water regulation program, which is also used by many surrounding communities.

With the recent lower rainfall and heat. the City has set its water system status to "Yellow." When water system statuses are set to yellow, this means lawn and lanscape watering can only be done on even or odd days. All properties with odd addresses are asked to water exclusively on odd-numbered days, and even-numbered addresses are asked to only water on even-numbered days. With this, the City also limits watering to only between 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The City will inform residents if the water system status changes from yellow to any other.

Sanitary Sewer Backup - "What should I do?"

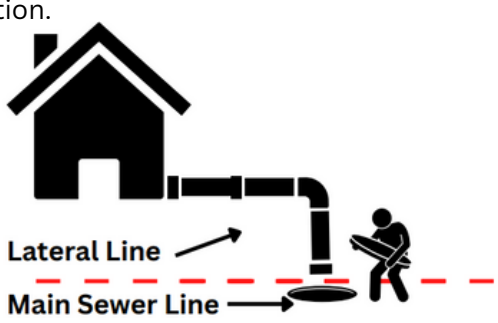
Sewage is backing up into my home! What should I do?
1. Stop using water! This contributes to the backup. Don't run any water down your drains until the blockage has been cleared.

2. Quickly close all drain openings with stoppers or plugs. Tub, sink, and floor drain plugs may need additional weight to keep them sealed. A string mop can be used to help plug toilet openings.

3. Call the City of Crystal Lake Public Works Department at (815) 356-3614 to inspect the City's main sewer line. City staff is available 24/7, and at no charge to inspect the City's main sewer line.

Why do I call the City before I call a plumber?
The City maintains the main sewer lines. If the backup is in the City's lines, City crews will resolve the issue. This saves you the expense of having a plumber come out for a blockage they couldn't have cleared. If the City's inspection of the main line shows it's clear, you'll then call a plumber, as the problem is in your lateral service line.

What portion of the sewer lines are the homeowner's responsibility?
Homeowners are responsible for the lateral line, which is the portion of the sewer line that services your home. Please see the following diagram for clarification.



How can sewer backups be prevented?
The City inspects and cleans the sanitary sewer mains throughout the City. Homeowners can help prevent backups by NEVER flushing diapers, sanitary napkins, paper towels, rags, or grease. Tree roots may invade your lateral line. Homeowners can hire a plumbing company to preventatively remove tree roots.

Train Horns and Quiet Zones

Trains horns are essential in keeping commuters, rail employees, and the public safe when near railroad tracks and crossings, not only for Metra but for the freight railroad companies that own and operate lines throughout the six-county region.

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) rules require locomotive engineers to sound train horns between 15 and 20 seconds, but no more than a quarter-mile, before all public grade crossings. Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of two long, one short, and one long blast. Under the FRA mandate, the pattern must be repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car is in the grade crossing. This rule applies 24 hours a day, even if a crossing is equipped with lights, bells, and crossing gates. Train crews may also deem it necessary to sound a horn as a warning when a vehicle, person, or animal is near the tracks. Track construction, workers within 25 feet of a live track, or malfunctioning crossings also require crews to sound the horn.



FRA rules allow communities to reduce train horn noise by establishing Quiet Zones. In a Quiet Zone, railroads are directed to cease the routine sounding of horns when approaching public grade crossings. However, it is important to understand that even if a community establishes a Quiet Zone, like Crystal Lake did, train horns may still be used by workers within 25 feet of the track or in emergencies, such as a person or a vehicle on the tracks or at the discretion of the crew. Source: https://metra.com/train-horns-quiet-zones.

FILL'ER UP!

DIANA KENNEY

For many years, the northwest corner at Gates & Main was an empty lot. There was a house to the north and one to the west, but the corner itself was empty. Today the corner and surrounding lots are occupied by Crystal Lake Brewing Co.



Early postcard (ca 1910) showing northwest corner of Gates and Main.

Delbert C. Bacon married Eleanor Hawley on February 19, 1913. They were both from Ringwood, IL. When Delbert took a job as a brakeman with the Chicago Northwestern Railroad, the Bacons moved to Crystal Lake. In 1922 they purchased a home at the corner of Gates & Ann (NKA Grant) Streets. Four years later, they purchased the empty corner lot at Gates & Main with plans to build a business on that site.

The June 2, 1927 Crystal Lake Herald provides the following information about the Bacon's new business: "The new gasoline station just completed and which is located at Gates and Main is very attractive and evokes favorable comment from those who see it. Attention has been given to every detail in the construction of the building. It is unusually well-lighted and this in an artistic manner. Three pumps give quick service in filling tanks. Oil and grease are also handled. The station has wide driveways from both streets. The building is brick-trimmed with a brown stucco. The shape of the roof, the style of the doors and other features make it a station that is attractive and not of the usual type seen so often." The station was affiliated with the Cities Service Company, which later became known as Citgo.

The 1930 census reveals Delbert is no longer working for the railroad. His occupation is "Proprietor of Filling Station". Eleanor's brother, Edwin Hawley, is living with the Bacons and working for Delbert at the station. In 1939 Delbert sold the business to Edwin Hawley and returned to work as a baggageman for the railroad.

Edwin Hawley owned the Cities Service station until 1947, when he left Crystal Lake and moved his family to Arizona. Doctors had advised Edwin his daughter needed the dry, clean air of the Southwest in order to survive and thrive. Fortunately, the doctor was right.

The Cities Service station was then purchased by Felvey N. "Shorty" Davis, a former machinist at Oak Manufacturing. The land the station sat on was still owned by Eleanor Bacon (Delbert died in 1944).The Crystal Lake Herald describes Shorty as "friendly and likeable". He was active in the community by sponsoring athletic teams and events.



Shorty Davis' Cities Service Station

In 1957, Reichert Chevrolet & Buick purchased the three lots surrounding the corner. Nine years later, Eleanor Bacon Howe sold her corner lot to Reichert, thus marking the end of an era for the cute little gas station.

Reichert built a large service center on the site. In later years, the building was occupied by Grand Rental Station before it became Crystal Lake Brewing. So, the next time you're sitting at Crystal Lake Brewing's outdoor beer garden, don't forget to say "Fill 'er Up" as you raise a glass to Delbert, Edwin and Shorty and their cute little Cities Service station!

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.

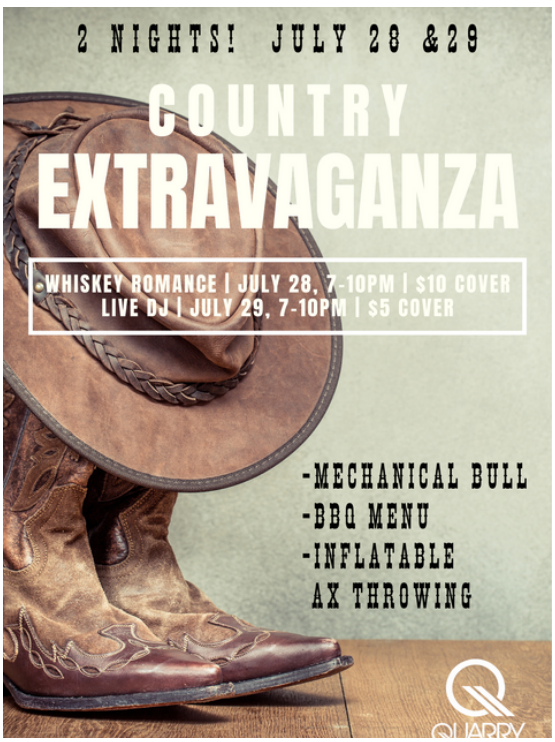
LRS Electronics Collection

Every year, the City's contracted garbage and refuse collector, Lake Shore Recycling (LRS), completes two special collection events where they will collect electronic devices. The most recent collection event occurred this past March, from March 6 to March 10. The next event will be in September, from September 11 to September 15. The items eligible for collection under this program can be found on the City's website using the following link, https://bit.ly/43GZRGg. If you have items that are not a part of this event or if you have items that need to be disposed of before September; please take a look at the McHenry County Green Guide.

The Green Guide can be found on McHenry County Colleges' website using the following link, https://bit.ly/43GZRGg. Along with electronics collections, the Green Guide also has information on items that can be hard to dispose of, such as paints, light bulbs, appliances, Styrofoam, and much more.

The Quarry at Three Oaks Events







CALENDAR | JULY 2023

All Meetings at City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street

Tuesday, July 4
City Hall Offices closed

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

Thursday, July 6
Historic Preservation Commission, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, July 12
Public Arts Commission, 8:00 A.M.

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

Wednesday, July 19
Sustainability Committee Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

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

City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

MAYOR
Haig Haleblian

COUNCILMEMBER
Ellen Brady
Brett Hopkins
Cameron Hubbard
Mandy Montford
Ian Philpot
Denise Smith

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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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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