City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



RECOMMENDED HALLOWEEN HOURS ON PAGE 6

Downtown October Events

Crystal Lake's historic downtown district is the heart of our City. Locally owned shops, businesses, and restaurants line our downtown streets, and making it the perfect place to spend an afternoon or evening exploring. The ladies of our community are invited to enjoy a special evening dedicated to them on Thursday, October 19 (The gentlemen are invited as well!).

Participating businesses will offer exclusive deals, discounts, and giveaways during Ladies' Night Out. This event is the perfect opportunity to do some early holiday shopping and get a head start on your Christmas list. You'll find unique gifts you can't find anywhere else, and with many of the stores staying open late, you can make a night of it.

There will be a witch theme for this Ladies' Night Out. Wear your favorite witch costumes, hats and run around downtown on your broomstick! The most creative witches will receive prizes!

And if you need a break from all the shopping, jump off your broomstick at one of our downtown restaurants for a bite to eat or a refreshing drink. Many of them will offer Ladies' Night Out guest specials, so you can enjoy a meal or snack on the go as you continue exploring all downtown has to offer.

Ladies' Night Out will take place on Thursday, October 19, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This event is FREE to all ladies, so no need to RSVP.

Save the date for Halloween Handout on Tuesday, October 31, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. Downtown businesses pass out candy and treats for costumed children in our community.

Visit the Downtown Crystal Lake Organization's website, www.DowntownCL.org, for a list of participating businesses. For information about Downtown Crystal Lake or upcoming events, please call 815-479-0835.

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A CENTURY OF FAITH

DIANA KENNEY

On February 23, 1923, a group of faithful Swedish-American citizens met at the Immanuel (German) Lutheran School on McHenry Avenue with the intent to establish a Swedish Lutheran congregation. Pastor Frank Carlson from Elgin conducted the meeting, and resident Gus Moberg served as secretary. Thirty people signed the charter for the new church known as the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Bethany Church.

In the beginning, the young congregation met in several locations until they could build a permanent church of their own. Early locations for their services include St. Paul's Evangelical Church, Crystal Lake High School and American Legion Hall (now known as Old Towne Hall above Heisler's Bootery). Rent rate for the hall was $12 per month.

It took nine months for the congregation to find a location for a permanent church. The congregation purchased a building site at the corner of Elmhurst and Crystal Lake Avenues for $3,000. A building committee was formed. Architect Adolph A. Hanson of the Bureau of Ecclesiastical Architecture was hired. With help and support from the Synod, the congregation obtained financing for the construction costs. Construction began in September 1924. In order to save money, the members of the congregation dug the building's foundation by hand! The November 27, 1924 Crystal Lake Herald reported, "Ceremonies for the laying of the church cornerstone were most impressive." Over 300 people attended the ceremony. Mayor Ben Raue spoke to the crowd, stating, "Crystal Lake is a clean and good town to live in." He went on to say, "Another church will mean a better community and better citizens." The new church building was completed and ready for occupancy in September 1925.



Early postcard image of original Bethany Lutheran Church and surrounding properties – ca1930s

At first, services at Bethany were spoken in Swedish. As time went by, there were both Swedish and English services. By 1930, a motion was passed at the Annual Meeting to hold English-only services. This did not bode well with some of the old-timers, but eventually the congregation adapted to all-English.

The congregation had other important things to worry about. At the 1931 Annual Meeting, it was reported the general fund was down to $9.49. However, Sunday School attendance was up, and 17 new members were accepted into the church.

The cash-strapped congregation knew they needed to provide a home for their minister and his family. The parsonage, built in 1931 (located just east of the church on Crystal Lake Avenue), was a Sears Kit Home Model "The Strathmore." Almost all the labor and some of the materials were donated by members and others. This house still stands but was later moved to 467 S. McHenry Avenue.

With the end of the Depression, things began to look up for Bethany during the 1940s. A renewed campaign was initiated to pay down debt and increase membership. The continued growth of the congregation created a need for more space. By 1955, the congregation had started to outgrow its original facility. An education wing was completed in 1958. As a result of the congregation's growth and need for additional space, the old church building was torn down and a new brick structure built in 1978. Additional renovations and enlargements to the new building have been made over the past 45 years.

Looking back over the past 100 years, one has to wonder if those original Swedish parishioners could have imagined that Bethany would grow so large to become such a cornerstone of faith in our community. Today's members of Bethany Lutheran Church are celebrating and honoring their past while looking forward to their next Century of Faith.

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.

New Downtown Metra Station Concessionaire

Breaking Bread Catering and Deli has opened for business at the Downtown Crystal Lake Metra Station. Breaking Bread offers coffee, pastries, and sandwiches for Metra train riders Monday through Saturday. Whether you are stopping in before catching a train, or walking through Depot Park and the Historic Downtown, Breaking Bread will offer to-go options from inside the station.



Clearly
CRYSTAL LAKE

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

This new section will provide monthly updates on new projects, businesses, and developments coming to the City of Crystal Lake; along with information about the Crystal Lake market and key industries and manufacturers in our market. To kick this section off, we will be providing a summary about the state of the Crystal Lake economy. Don't forget to look for this section each month for new information about the Crystal Lake economy and business community.

Crystal Lake, with its charming downtown area, vibrant community, excellent schools and diverse range of shops and restaurants, has been a popular destination among locals and visitors alike.

The City quickly translated demand into growth – filling existing commercial corridors, encouraging reinvestment in multiple shopping centers, and developing new sites with retail, restaurant, healthcare and housing. Crystal Lake is a hub for national and regional restaurants and retailers. Last year, residents and visitors spent more than $147 million at restaurants in Crystal Lake, and according to the Illinois Department of Revenue, Crystal Lake had more than $1.4 billion in retail sales placing it in the top 20 for Chicagoland metropolitan area retail sales. The City is expected to continue the year-after-year growth in terms of sales, and has multiple new businesses joining the market this year.

The business community continues to grow, enhancing an already strong mix of locally-owned businesses and national chains. New restaurant additions include Guzman y Gomez, Crumbl Cookies, Summer Moon Coffee, and Rookies All American Pub and Grill, alongside retailers such as Boot Barn, Banfield Pet Hospital, Hallmark, and Ollie's Bargain Outlet.







FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Fire Prevention Week

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9 to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire. The Chicago Fire began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific event killed over 250 people, left over 100,000 homeless, destroyed over 17,400 structures, and burned over 2,000 acres. According to the National Archives, Fire Prevention Week is the longest-running public health and safety observance on record.



The National Fire Protection Agency's 2023 campaign for Fire Prevention Month is "Cooking safety starts with YOU." Please review the following tips to keep you and your loved ones safe in the kitchen:

- Always remain in the kitchen when cooking.
- Keep the kitchen free from clutter.
- Unplug or turn off your appliances.
- Install reliable protection; install smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and in every bedroom.
- Keep anything that can catch on fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains — away from your stovetop.
- Use a timer to remind you that food is cooking, especially if you are simmering, baking, or broiling.

FACT: US fire departments responded to an estimated average of 172,900 home structure fires per year started by cooking activities in 2014-2018!

Halloween Fire Safety Tips

- Use a battery-operated glow stick in jack-o-lanterns.
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long, trailing fabric.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like lightbulbs and heaters.
- Teach children to avoid open flames, including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.



Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department
(815) 356-3640

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Off Season Hours of Operation

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

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



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

2023 Water Rate Increase

In November, residents will see a change to the amounts charged for water and sewer on their monthly utility bills. In April, the City Council approved a water and sewer user fee increase as part of the 2023/24 fiscal year budget. The first monthly bill impacted by the increase will be the November bill which reflects September water consumption. Even with the increase, Crystal Lake rates continue to remain comparable with neighboring communities.

The City of Crystal Lake uses user fees to fund the communities water and wastewater operations, including four water treatment plants and two wastewater treatment facilities as well as the network of water mains, sanitary sewers, and storm sewers. If residents have questions about their utility bills, please contact the City's Finance Department at 815-459-2020 or email finance@crystallake.org.

Water Rate	Previous	New	Difference
Monthly Service Charge	$8.03	$8.43	$0.40
Each 1,000 Gallons	$5.47	$5.74	$0.27
Sewer Rate	**Previous**	**New**	**Difference**
Monthly Service Charge	$9.58	$10.06	$0.48
Each 1,000 Gallons	$5.48	$5.75	$0.27

Average Monthly Consumption	Previous Monthly Bill	New Monthly Bill	Difference
4,000 Gallons Per Month	$61.41	$64.45	$3.04
10,000 Gallons Per Month	$127.11	$133.39	$6.28

Senior citizen discount will remain at 20% on the first 5,000 gallons used each month

POLICE DEPARTMENT

RECOMMENDED TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS: OCTOBER 31, 3 P.M. – 7 P.M.

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is always filled with fun activities, creative costumes, and a tooth-aching amount of candy. Follow the safety tips below to avoid any fright on your holiday night:

- Review with children how to call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost.
- Walk on sidewalks and stay in well-lit areas.
- Ensure everyone in your trick-or-treating group understands the importance of not wandering off.
- Help your children check their candy. Throw out any candy with torn packaging or holes in the packaging.
- Be cautious near roadways. Cross streets only at crosswalks, obey traffic signals, and look both ways before crossing.
- Plan a safe ride home if you plan on attending an event where alcohol consumption will be present.



All Night Parking Ordinance

The ordinance states, “No person, except physicians or emergency calls, shall park any vehicle for a period of time longer than 30 minutes between the hours of 2:00am and 6:00am of any day on any streets in the municipality.” Approval for overnight street parking is available upon request. To obtain permission to park on the street overnight, please visit the City of Crystal Lake’s website and search for ‘Overnight Parking.’ On the dedicated page, you’ll find a clickable link that will guide you through providing essential information, including your location and vehicle details.

New Police Department Instagram

Are you following the Crystal Lake Police Department’s new Instagram Account? Exciting news! In August, the Department launched a brand new Instagram account, where you can see exclusive content, stay updated on events and get to know the faces behind the badge.

Join us every Thursday for ‘Thursday Night Trivia,’ where we post three questions on our story. It’s a fun way to test your knowledge and learn about the law.

Scan the QR code on this newsletter using the camera on your smart phone, and it will take you straight to our Instagram page. Let’s connect, share, and engage together as a community!

SCAN ME

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 and Instagram to stay up to date on the latest news, events, and safety tips!

Fall Leaf Collection

Raking leaves into the street is a violation of City Code and can lead to blocked storm drains. To help dispose of leaves, the City's Annual Fall Leaf Pick-up Program has begun and will continue until the second full week in December. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) crews will collect bagged leaves placed at the curbside in front of residential homes along public streets. Bags must be placed in the parkway before 7:00 a.m. on residents' regular refuse collection day.

Leaves can only be placed in biodegradable paper bags or resident-owned waste bins clearly marked for leaf disposal in order to be collected. Paper leaf bags are available at local grocery and hardware stores. The City and Lakeshore Recycling Systems do not provide leaf bags. There is a 50-pound maximum weight limit per bag. Leaves placed in containers such as plastic bags, garbage cans, boxes, or in bags too large for one person to handle will not be accepted.

To contact Lakeshore Recycling Systems with any questions, please call their customer service number (844) 633-3577 or visit their website at www.lrsrecycles.com.

The Quarry at Three Oaks Events







CALENDAR | OCTOBER 2023

All Meetings at City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street

Tuesday, October 3
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 4
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 5
Historic Preservation Commission, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 17
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 18
Sustainability Committee Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, October 18
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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City of Crystal Lake
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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to receive the newsletter by e-mail only.

WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

The City of Crystal Lake values the opinion of its residents. If you have any concerns or comments about the City Letter, please express them in the space provided below. (If you need more space, please attach a separate piece of paper). Clip this and mail to: City Letter, City of Crystal Lake, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Questions or comments can also be sent to comments www.crystallake.org.

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