City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER


Photo Credit: Maria Linnea

McHenry County Santa Run Returns to Crystal Lake

The Santa Run for Kids returns to downtown Crystal Lake for the 12th year! On Sunday, December 3, hundreds of adults, kids, and dogs will gather in downtown Crystal Lake for a spirited holiday walk/run that's fun for the whole family!

The 2023 Santa Run for Kids begins on Williams Street and features a 5k walk/run and a 1-mile fun walk/run through the beautiful streets of downtown. All 5k participants will receive a head-to-toe Santa suit or Santa Run long sleeve t-shirt as their race swag.

"This event really brings the holiday spirit to life right here in our hometown, Crystal Lake. Hundreds of runners and walkers dressed in Santa red flowing down Williams Street is really a sight to see! We are so grateful for the community's support of this race and the ability to donate back to six local youth-based charities," says Denise Smith, Santa Run Race Committee Member and event sponsor.

Registration for the December 3 Santa Run for Kids is open online through December 2 and in-person on race morning. If you're not much for walking or running, the race is looking for 50+ volunteers to make the event safe and FUN! Register to participate or volunteer using the link: https://raceroster.com/events/2023/72123/mchenry-county-santa-run-for-kids.

The 2023 McHenry County Santa Run for Kids benefits Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, CASA of McHenry County, Girls on the Run of Northwest Illinois, Kiwanis Club of Crystal Lake, Main Stay Therapeutic Farms, and Turning Point.

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HONORING OUR VETERANS

DIANA KENNEY

Veterans Day was originally known as Armistice Day to honor and celebrate the end of WWI. As years passed, the significance of the name of this holiday changed. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower called on all citizens to observe the day by honoring servicemen who fought in all of America's wars. The name of the holiday was then officially changed to "Veterans Day" and is celebrated each November 11th to honor all veterans.

The Crystal Lake Cemetery is the oldest public burial ground in Crystal Lake and Algonquin Township. Since it was established in 1840, nearly 1,200 burials have taken place at the cemetery. 54 veterans are buried at the Crystal Lake Cemetery, broken down as follows: 1-Patriot's War, 6-War of 1812, 45-Civil War, 2-WW1.

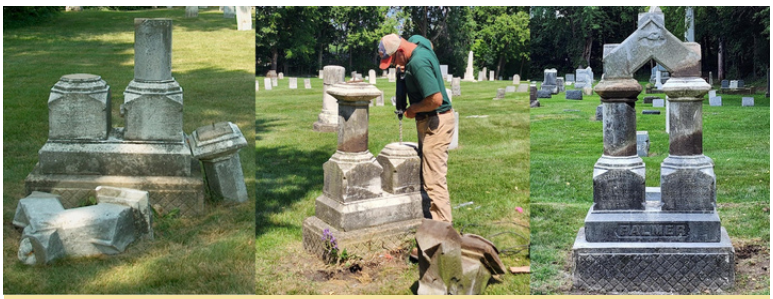
To acknowledge and honor those veterans, trained volunteers of the Crystal Lake Historical Society and Historic Preservation Commission have teamed up to clean 60+ veteran and non-veteran headstones using approved methods so as not to damage the stones. The work of cleaning headstones is ongoing and is making a significant difference in the appearance of this historic cemetery.

The S.O.S. (Save Our Stones) fund was established by the Crystal Lake Historical Society to raise the necessary funds to repair the historic headstones of Crystal Lake Cemetery. First priority for the use of the funds is to repair the headstones of veterans buried at the cemetery.

With the assistance of Warner & Troost Monument Co. in East Dundee, Phase 1 of the repair project was completed this past summer with the repair and restoration of three veteran headstones: Colonel Gustavus Palmer, Dr. James Graves and Colonel William Huffman.

Colonel Palmer (the "Colonel" is a title of respect, not a military rank) served in a New York militia unit during the little-known Patriot War (1838). The Palmer family travelled in 1840 from New York State to northern Illinois, settling at today's corner of Route 176 and Terra Cotta. The Colonel Palmer House, built in 1858, is used by both the Crystal Lake Historical Society and Crystal Lake Park District.

The Palmer family's unique headstone was a tumble of pieces that sorely needed put back together! The repair required pins and epoxy to reset the upright monument. Special equipment was brought in to lift the heavy pieces back into place. The stones are made of white marble and should clean up beautifully. Now that they're stabilized, the cleaning will begin!



Before, during and after restoration of the Palmer monument

Help us to continue our efforts to repair broken headstones at the Crystal Lake Cemetery. Our next focus for Phase 2 will be to repair some of the obelisk headstones (including that of Civil War veteran James Best) where the base is in place, but the obelisk on top is laying on the ground. Our stonesetter indicates these are the most likely repairs to successfully stay in place for the next century. Getting the obelisks off the ground is helpful for the landscapers when cutting grass and also prolongs the life of the engravings.

Let's join together to honor our veterans. For additional information or to donate to the S.O.S. project, visit the Crystal Lake Historical Society's website: www.cl-hs.org Donations are tax-deductible.

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.

Fall Leaf Collection

The City's Annual Fall Leaf Pick-up Program continues until the second Friday in December. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) is the City's contracted service provider for this program. Lakeshore Recycling Systems 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 hardware stores and grocery 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 the other containers such as plastic bags, garbage cans or 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.

Clearly CRYSTAL LAKE

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

CRYSTAL LAKE'S MEDICAL MARKET

With the addition of the brand new Mercyhealth hospital in Crystal Lake, the healthcare community has never been stronger. Mercyhealth hospital features a 24-hour emergency room, intensive care unit, diagnostic services, along with diagnostic primary and specialty care physician offices and physical therapy services. Crystal Lake is becoming the destination for health care services from hospitals, to urgent care, and medical offices. All major brands are now represented in the market including Advocate Heath Care and Northwestern Medicine facilities. There are job opportunities at all of these facilities and more details about these opportunities can be found at each of the company's websites.

Also, located in Crystal Lake, McHenry County College has a wide range of medical training programs including but not limited to training for Medical Assistant, EKG Technician, and Phlebotomy. Along with certification programs for Occupational Therapy Assistant AAS, Physical Therapist Assistant AAS, LPN to RN Bridge Program, and Nursing with a partnership program through Northwestern Medicine.

Interested in learning more about the many medical providers in the City, or applying to one of these locations? Use the links below to access their websites!

- Advocate Health Care: https://bit.ly/48PnZcT
- Northwestern Medicine: https://bit.ly/NWMedicine
- Mercyhealth: https://bit.ly/Mercyheal







FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Thanksgiving Safety

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during Thanksgiving. Safety in the kitchen is important, on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home. Follow these important safety tips to have an accident free holiday celebration!

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop to keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over toys, pocketbooks, or bags.
- Keep knives out of children's reach.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in a room with lit candles.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.



Open House 2023

Thank you to the amazing volunteers who helped with the Fire Rescue's Annual Open House. The Department appreciates each and every vendor that attended and shared their organization with our community! A special thank you to the National Honor Society students from School District 155 for choosing this event to earn volunteer hours. Most importantly, thank you to every resident and visitor who came to the Open House!



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Thank you!

Thank you to every park guest for being part of a great season! We would also like to thank our incredible team of Marina Attendants, Lifeguards, and Managers for their contribution and dedication to making the Three Oaks Recreation Area a fantastic experience for all. In addition, we would like to extend our appreciation to the staff at The Cottage on the Beach, The Board House, and The Quarry Cable Park.

Trails & Sled Hill

Walking trails will remain open daily, year round. The sled hill will open when snowfall has accumulated during regular park hours. Use of the sled hill is at your own risk as staff members are not always present during this time.

Fishing along the shoreline is open until the lake begins to freeze. For the safety of our patrons, ice fishing is not allowed.

Guest Photo Submissions



Mario Salazar



Paul McPherson

2024 Summer Seasonal Employment

Beginning in December, the City of Crystal Lake will open its annual employment application for seasonal positions at Three Oaks for the 2024 season. Keep an eye out for these openings on the City website under the employment tab!

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

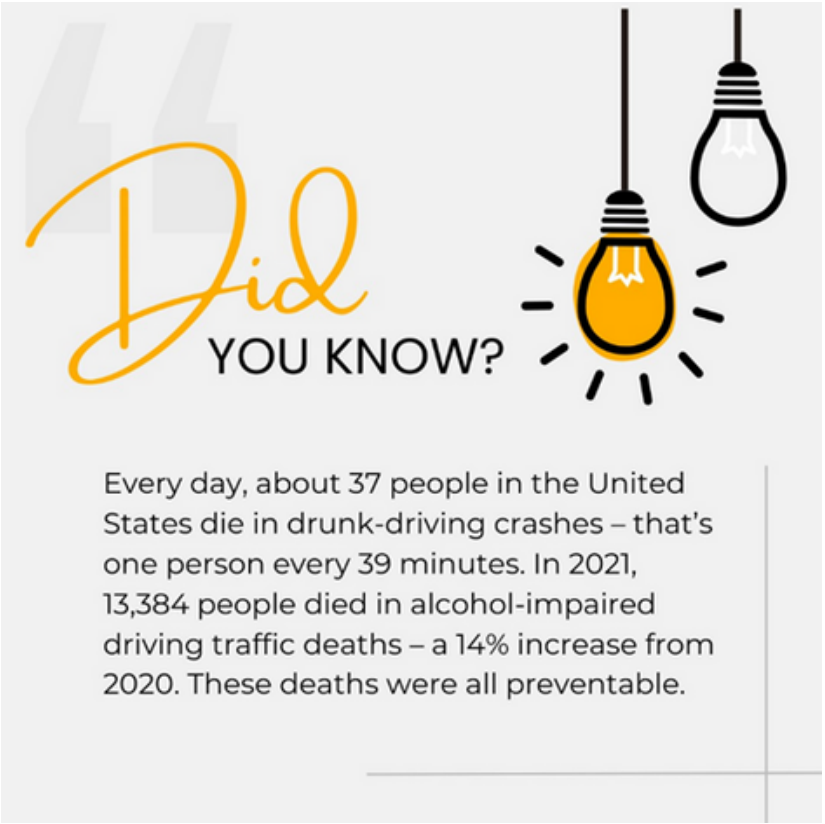
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

At the Crystal Lake Police Department, your safety is our top priority. With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, we want to emphasize the importance of celebrating responsibly and ensuring a secure environment.

Thanksgiving is known for bringing families and friends together, but it's also one of the most heavily traveled holiday periods in the United States. "Blackout Wednesday," observed on November 24th, is a pre-Thanksgiving holiday known for celebratory activities often involving alcohol. We urge you to engage in these festivities responsibly and never consider impaired driving an option.

We will maintain a strong presence on our roads throughout the Thanksgiving week, actively enforcing traffic and DUI laws. Remember, if you feel different, you drive different. Let's all do our part to make this Thanksgiving a time of gratitude and celebration, free from tragedy.



Car Show

The Crystal Lake Police Department recently partnered with Crystal Lake Cars & Caffeine for a fantastic car show! The event had an incredible turnout with around 70 unique, classic, and simply "awesome" cars. Donations from the event raised over $2,500 for two charities – McHenry County Police Charities and Lakeside Legacy. The Crystal Lake Police Department would like to extend a special thanks to all who participated and voted for the People's Choice Award, with two lucky spectators winning fantastic raffle prizes.

Stay tuned on our social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) for upcoming events!







Toys for Tots

Every year, the Crystal Lake Police Department joins hands with the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program to bring joy to children in McHenry County. The tradition continues this year as we collect new, unwrapped toys to brighten the holiday season for those in need.



When: We are accepting toy donations from now through mid-December.

Why: Your generous contributions will make a child's holiday truly special. Together, we can make a significant impact and bring smiles to many faces.

Where: You can drop off your new, unwrapped toys in the marked Toys for Tots cardboard box in the Police Department Lobby.

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!

Brush Drop-Off Site Closes November 18

For all of those last minute garden clean up, or general end of the season yard projects, don't miss the last two remaining brush drop off days for 2023. The Brush Drop-Off Site is located at 410 S. Main Street. It is open 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from April through November. Residents may dispose of brush, sticks, and branches six inches or under in diameter, and six feet or less in length. This site cannot accept leaves, grass clippings, root balls, twine bound bundles of sticks, or branches bigger than the stated parameters. If you used twine to bind the brush during transport, you must remove the twine once you get to the site. Once closed for the season, this site will not reopen until the 1st Saturday in April. Remaining 2023 Brush Drop-Off Dates: November 4 and November 18.

CALENDAR | NOVEMBER 2023

Wednesday, November 1
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 2
Historic Preservation Commission, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 7
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, November 8
Public Arts Commission Meeting, 8:00 A.M.

Friday, November 10
City Hall Offices closed

Wednesday, November 15
Sustainability Committee Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, November 15
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, November 21
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, November 23
City Hall Offices closed

Friday, November 24
City Hall Offices closed

All Meetings at City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street

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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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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