City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Christmas in Downtown Crystal Lake

The most exciting and anticipated time of the year is upon us. This year's holiday season will top all others, with carolers strolling through the streets, Santa making special visits to his house, and a host of other holiday surprises.

Luminary Nights
Luminary Nights have become a cherished tradition for many families in the community. For three nights in December, the streets of Downtown Crystal Lake will be illuminated. Shop late and take advantage of the extended hours at your favorite stores while strolling downtown and admiring the luminaries. You can enjoy Santa House visits, live holiday music, and more. Luminary Nights occur every Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in December, through Christmas.

Santa House Visits
Bring the children down to the Santa House in the Brink Street Market courtyard. Magic is in the air at the Santa House. The jolly old man will visit with the children, listening to their wish lists every Thursday – Sunday starting November 25. Santa House hours are Thursdays and Fridays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sundays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. There is no charge for the visits, but the memories are priceless.

Christmas Tree Lane in Peppermint Park
See 40 beautifully custom-decorated trees lining Downtown Crystal Lake's Peppermint Park. Each tree shares an important message for this holiday. Christmas Tree Lane is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. This year's Christmas Tree Lane is brought to you by local churches, charities, service groups, and businesses and will be on display until December 31. Peppermint Park is the perfect place for families to make memories together. The park is beautifully lit and walkable so that everyone can enjoy a festive place for an evening walk.

Downtown Crystal Lake is the place to be this holiday season. With so much going on, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Experience the magic of Downtown Crystal Lake this Christmas!

"He Built Lives" Page 2
Clearly Crystal Lake Page 3
The Value of Water Page 7

HE BUILT LIVES

DIANA KENNEY

Most of us are too young to have personally known Harry A. Dean. But Mr. Dean impacted Crystal Lake's educational system so much that generations later, we still reap the benefits of his pursuit of excellence in education.

Harry Adelbert Dean was born in East Foxboro, MA, on July 29, 1866. His family moved to Arcadia, Iowa, when he was twelve. Harry attended Cornell College and Iowa State, graduating in 1891 with a degree in Education. He began his teaching career in Geneva, Illinois, where he met his future wife, Eva Riplets. Two years later, he became Superintendent of schools at Elburn, Illinois. By 1903, he was elected Superintendent of Schools for Kane County, serving in this position for two terms.



Photo of H.A. Dean

In 1910, H.A. Dean became Superintendent of schools in Crystal Lake after A.M. Shelton retired from this position. At that time, all grades (first grade through high school) were part of School District #47.

In 1919, a separate Community High School District (#155) was established by an election. Harry Dean served as Superintendent of both school districts until his death in 1936. Under his tenure, the Crystal Lake Community High School was built on Franklin Street.

Harry and Eva Dean purchased a spacious and beautiful Queen Anne-style home at the northeast corner of Crystal Lake Avenue and North Caroline Street. The couple had eight children (one died as an infant), so they needed a big home! The house was built in 1904 by Franklin Cox. It was then owned by the Wiltberger family, who sold it to the Deans in 1911. The Deans took great pride in meticulously maintaining the house and landscape. The Dean family retained ownership of the home until 1957. After that, the large house was subdivided into apartments, neglected, and was finally demolished in 1976. Today, two newer homes stand at that corner.

Harry A. Dean has been described as "having a very firm aura about him—kind of a mix of banker, coach, policeman and minister." Harry Dean was a strict yet kind school administrator. He expected his staff to maintain order and discipline at all times. He expected them to ensure their students learned their lessons and excelled in schoolwork. He



Dean House-ca 1910

paid close attention to the maintenance and care of the school buildings too. No details were too small for Mr. Dean's attention. It has been said that he instructed the teachers in the high school to leave the window shades in the same position each night to maintain a uniform look from the street.

Both Harry and Eva Dean were active members of the community. H.A. Dean was a member of the first Crystal Lake Library board of directors. Harry headed several Liberty Loan drives in Crystal Lake during WWI, raising money for the war effort. Eva was a charter member of the Crystal Lake Woman's Club. The couple belonged to Crystal Lake's First Congregational Church (FCC).

H.A. Dean died at his home on March 29, 1936, from kidney and heart disease. According to the Crystal Lake Herald, "The crowd at the high school was the largest to attend a funeral in Crystal Lake in many years. The casket was placed on the stage and surrounded by beautiful flowers. School officials from many other schools were among those present."

The newspaper is filled with tributes to Harry A. Dean, including this one from an unnamed student: "If judgement is passed on mortal existence, there are doubtless many answers. An architect can answer 'I built houses'. An engineer, 'I built bridges'. But H.A. Dean, educator, can answer best of all: 'I built lives'."

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.

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

CRYSTAL LAKE'S HOUSING GROWTH

More than 1,000 housing units have been approved for construction in the City of Crystal Lake over the last few years; our housing industry is expanding. New residential growth across various housing types - single-family, apartments, and townhomes – offering new and existing residents more options.

A development by Redwood Apartment Neighborhoods will bring Crystal Lake 304 units of ranch-style rental townhomes to the Route 31 corridor.

Residents have started moving into The Enclave, located at 95 E. Crystal Lake Avenue. Once completed, it will bring a mix of amenity-rich rental townhomes and apartments downtown. The 99-unit community is located downtown on a key corner close to shops and the Metra train station. The Enclave is also connected to the McHenry County Conservation District Prairie Trail system.

Water's Edge, Crystal Lake's newest and largest redevelopment project, is underway. This mixed-use development will offer 240 garden apartments and 20 luxury townhomes alongside amenities like a pool, sand volleyball, basketball, pickleball, and a clubhouse. Heartland Real Estate Partners are leading the new development which will bridge the natural beauty of the Three Oaks Recreation Area and the vibrancy of the Northwest Highway commercial corridor.

Lastly, Lennar has expanded its recent housing project at Woodlore Estates. Woodlore Townes, located along Route 176 and Carpathian Drive, will bring 47 new townhomes to the market. Crystal Lake continues to thrive as a great place to live!







2024 Crystal Lake Historical Society Calendars

The Crystal Lake Historical Society has begun selling the 2024 Calendar, all purchases of these calendars will go towards preserving our community's history. This year's theme is "Those Were the Days". Each month of the calendar brings back memories of a simpler time in Crystal Lake's history. Remember going to the Drive-in, Blondies, the Train McDonalds, Twin Ponds, Crystal Point Mall, and more. You can purchase a calendar for only $10. The calendar would make an excellent gift for all who know and love Crystal Lake. Available at Crystal Lake City Hall, Heisler's Bootery, The Inside Scoop Ice Cream, Colonel Palmer House, and online: www.cl-hs.org.

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Holiday Safety Tips

It's time to dig out those festive lights and decorations, but did you know holiday decorations cause about 790 fires each year? To keep you and your loved ones safe this holiday season, here are some important seasonal safety tips for fire prevention:

Deep Fryer Cooking Safety Tips

- Set the fryer up outdoors on a flat surface and away from children and pets to prevent tipping.
- Slowly raise or lower turkey or any other large item into the fryer to avoid burns, oil splatter, and fires.
- Never leave the fryer unsupervised.
- Make sure your turkey is thawed completely before cooking. Never put a frozen turkey in the deep fryer.
- If the oil starts to smoke, turn the deep fryer off.

Extension Cord/Holiday Lights Safety Tips

- Inspect holiday lights and extension cords before using them. If you see any cracked lights, loose sockets, fraying, or other types of damage on the cords, discard them.
- Keep extension cords out of high-traffic areas in homes (hallways and doorways) to prevent trips and falls.
- Do not run extension cords under carpet/rugs; ensure they are not pinched behind or underneath furniture.
- Avoid plugging extension cords into one another and only plug cords into permanent outlets.
- Connect up to three mini-string sets of lights and read instructions for LED light number restrictions.
- Do not use nails to hang lights; instead, use clips.

Keep the Wreath Red

The "Keep the Wreath Red" program serves as a reminder that even though the joy of the holidays are here, the risk of a fire emergency does not disappear. Following safety tips can reduce the risks you and your loved ones may face.

Each Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Station will hang a wreath with red bulbs. Whenever holiday decorations cause a fire in the fire station's coverage area, firefighters will substitute a red bulb for a white bulb on the wreath. Switching the bulbs is a visual reminder to be vigilant regarding fire safety and holiday decorations.

Help keep Crystal Lake safe from all holiday related fire incidents, and help to keep our community wreaths red for the season!



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Pavilion Rental Reservations

Reservations for 2024 will begin on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. for online rental requests. Rental requests submitted online prior to 8:00 a.m. on January 2nd will not be accepted. Be sure to set your special event date for the year as pavilions go quickly!

How to Reserve a Pavilion

Visit the Three Oaks Recreation Area page of the City website and select the pavilion rental portal. you can also access the portal using this link: https://registration.threeoaksrecreation.com/. Please follow these steps when renting a pavilion:

1. Check pavilion availability on the calendar. If you see a blank date, that means the pavilion is available!
2. Create an account on the portal to access at any time, or login to your existing account.
3. Submit a request for your desired date and pavilion.
4. City staff will review your rental request. A notice of approval or denial will be emailed to you.
5. Pay online within 24 hours of staff approval to complete your reservation.

Important Note: Your pavilion will not officially be reserved until it has been approved by staff and full payment has been received. All deposits and rental fees must be paid within 24 hours of your pavilion request approval. If all payments are not received within 24 hours, the reservation will not be accepted.

All pavilion details and related FAQ forms are available on our website under the Pavilion Rentals tab. Should you have any questions, please contact City staff at (815) 459-2020, ext. 4288.



Photo By: Bogusia Wrzos



Photo By: Linnea Maria

Join the Team!

Applications are being accepted to join us this upcoming 2024 season! Seasonal Lifeguards, Cashiers, and Marina Attendant roles are available. For position details, visit the City of Crystal Lake Human Resources Employment page and complete an employment application today!

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

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Impaired, drunk, drugged, and distracted driving has impacted countless lives. These reckless, yet avoidable actions have resulted in families loosing loved ones. This holiday season, we urge you to apply preventable measures by driving sober, designating a sober driver, or taking a cab/ride share.

Additional Crystal Lake Officers will participate in a traffic enforcement campaign on holiday weekends. Our focus remains on deterring distracted and intoxicated drivers. Remember, “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.”

The Crystal Lake Police Department wishes you all a joyful and safe holiday season. Celebrate responsibly and ensure the safety of yourselves and others on the road.



Toys for Tots

Every year, the Crystal Lake Police Department collects new unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots Program. The collected toys are wrapped and distributed to McHenry County children. Last year, with Crystal Lake community help, we collected 1,000 toys. We aim to beat that this year!

Now through mid-December, please help us by donating a new unwrapped toy in the marked Toys for Tots cardboard box in the Police Department lobby, 100 W. Woodstock Street. Our doors are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Together, we can bring smiles to countless children.



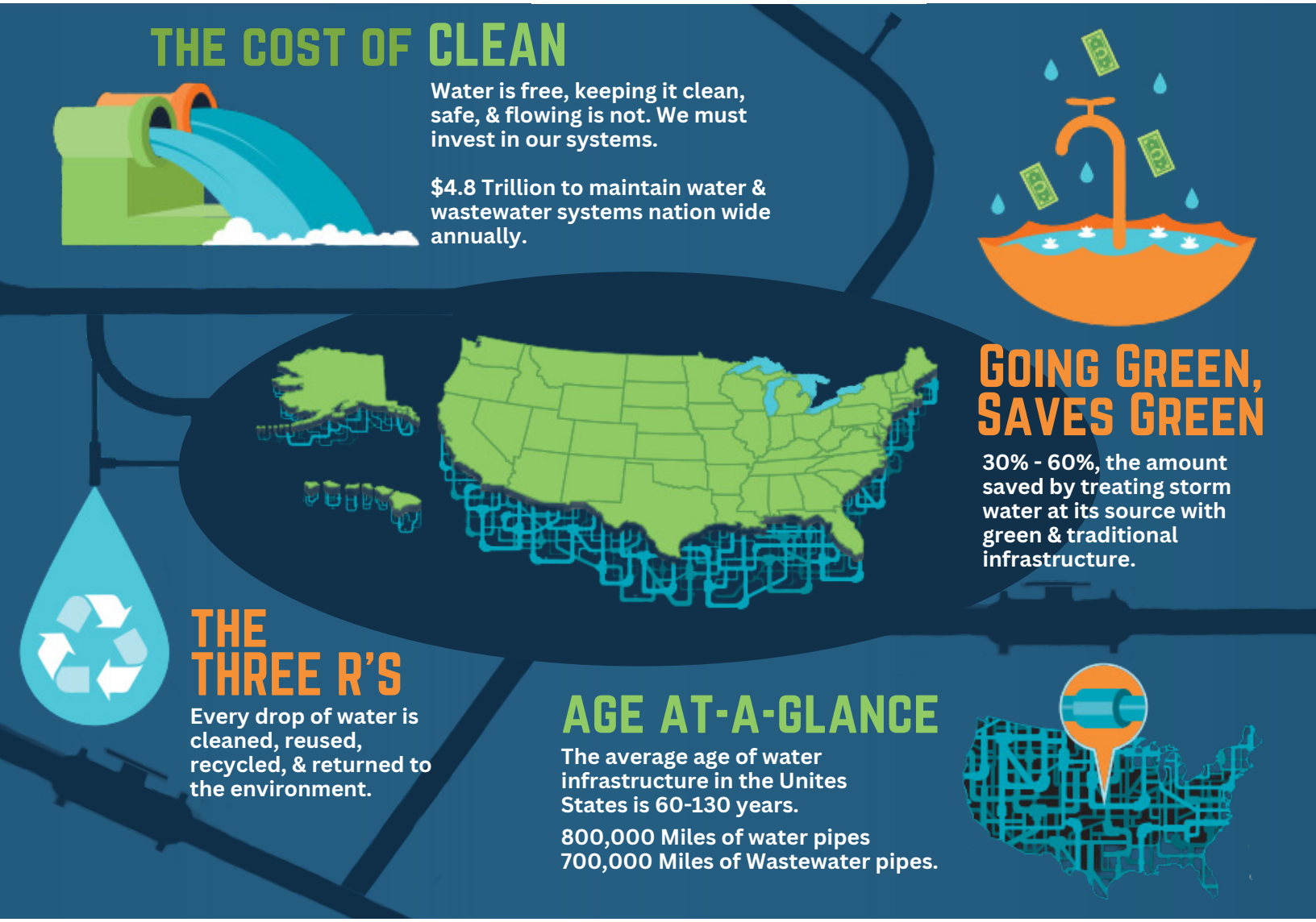
Holiday Safety Tips

- **Secure Your Home:** Ensure all doors and windows are locked before leaving home. Similarly, lock your car and avoid leaving valuables visible inside.
- **Online Shopping Caution:** Be wary of online scams and only shop reputable websites. Avoid public Wi-Fi when making financial transactions and regularly check bank statements for suspicious activity.
- **Designated Drivers:** Encourage responsible drinking during gatherings. Arrange designated drivers or alternative transportation options to ensure everyone gets home safely.
- **Package Delivery Security:** With increased online shopping, be mindful of when your packages are being delivered.

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!

American Water Works Association: The Value of Water



CALENDAR | DECEMBER 2023

Tuesday, December 5
Economic Development Committee, 8:00 A.M.

Tuesday, December 5
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 6
Planning and Zoning Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Thursday, December 7
Historic Preservation Commission, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, December 19
City Council Meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, December 20
Sustainability Committee Meeting, 6:30 P.M.

Monday, December 25
City Hall Offices closed

Tuesday, December 26
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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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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