City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Photo by Kelsey of K-Adams Foto

City Vehicle Sticker Requirement Change

The City is pleased to announce that starting July 1, 2024, residents will no longer need to purchase an annual vehicle sticker for each vehicle in their household. While the City has historically used the sticker revenues to offset a portion of road improvement costs each year, the City has identified alternate funding sources and will no longer be selling vehicle stickers after June 30th when the current stickers expire.

Residents will still be eligible to park at no charge at the Three Oaks Recreation Area with proof of residency. Residents should prepare to have their driver's license or State of Illinois ID scanned upon entry to validate residency, similar to the process already in place for entry into the beach area. If there are any questions regarding the vehicle stickers, please contact the Finance Department at 815-459-2020.

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Downtown Crystal Lake Garden Party

Head downtown on Saturday, May 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the annual Garden Party! Countryside Flower Shop & Nursery will be lining the sidewalks with flower baskets, which will be sold at their regular retail price while benefiting Downtown Crystal Lake. Buying a flower basket is the perfect opportunity to beautify your home for summer and support Downtown Crystal Lake, which enhances the historic downtown district!

Then, wander around and make a day of it! Enjoy the craft fair, storytime with the library, and free kids' craft in Depot Park. Go Mother's Day gift shopping or grab a bite with your family and friends.

For more information about Downtown Crystal Lake, visit https://downtowncl.org/.

Downtown Farmers Market

June 15th kicks off the three freshest months of the year, Farmers Market season! Make it part of your weekly routine to stroll, bike, or drive downtown to Depot Park and enjoy live entertainment, baked goods, doggy treats, and all of the fresh fruit and veggies you need for the week. If you're a Downtown Farmers Market regular, you'll recognize some returning favorites and a few new vendors this year. See you there!







Farmers Market pictures taken by Kelsey of K-Adams Foto

24th Annual Heritage Trolley Tour

On Sunday, June 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Crystal Lake Historic Preservation Commission will offer their annual Heritage Trolley Tour. The 2024 tour will feature homes and structures that have been removed (demolished) or moved. A portion of the tour will feature the history of the Crystal Lake Public Library and its impact on McHenry Avenue. The trolley tour is a timed and ticketed event. Tours start on the hour and half-hour and will last approximately 45 minutes. A souvenir tour book is included in the ticket price. The tour is held rain or shine. Tickets are $20 in advance or $25 day-of and can be purchased at Heisler's Bootery, 50 N. Williams Street.

Please contact Elizabeth Maxwell at (815) 356-3738 or emaxwell@crystallake.org with any questions.

Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

The City of Crystal Lake Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 27, 2024.

The parade begins 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 is held.

Chris Borchert, a Crystal Lake resident, will be the speaker for this year's ceremony. Borchert served in the United States Air Force on active and reserve duty for 28 years, recently retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. His last two assignments were at the Pentagon and

Continued on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

Joint Base Andrews, where he was a commander for the 316th Security Forces Group. Borchert also served for 25 years as a Supervisory Special Agent with the FBI, focusing on national security matters. Borchert responded to the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon, the anthrax attack on Capitol Hill, and other terrorist attacks, including tours in Afghanistan. He recently retired from the FBI and is currently working in the private sector.

In addition to the parade and ceremony, Querhammer and Flagg Funeral Home will host a complimentary breakfast from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at their facility, located at 500 W. Terra Cotta Avenue, for all armed service members, active and retired, before the parade begins.

As a reminder, the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony is a solemn event intended to honor the 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.

For questions about the application or parade, please contact Melanie Nebel at 815-459-2020 or mnebel@crystallake.org.

APPLICATION

VETERANS

Name of Individual/Group: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Branch of Service: _____

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Unit: _____ Number of Participants: _____

Indemnity/Hold Harmless for Use of City-Owned Property
To the fullest extent permitted by law, the undersigned hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees, against all injuries, deaths, loss, damages, claims, suits, liabilities, judgements, cost and expenses (including attorney fees), which may in any way accrue against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees arising in whole or part or in consequence of the use of City-owned property by the undersigned, its employees, agents, subcontractors, and/or 3rd party, or in which may in anyway result therefore, except that arising out of the sole legal cause of the City of Crystal Lake, its agents or employees. The User of City-owned property shall, at its own expense, appear, defend and pay all charges of attorneys and all costs and other expenses arising therefore or incurred in connections therewith, and, if any judgment shall be rendered against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, in any such action, the User shall, at its own expense, satisfy and discharge the same.

Agreed this _____ day of _____, 20_____

_____ _____

(Signature of User) (Please Print Name)

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

National Electrical Safety Month

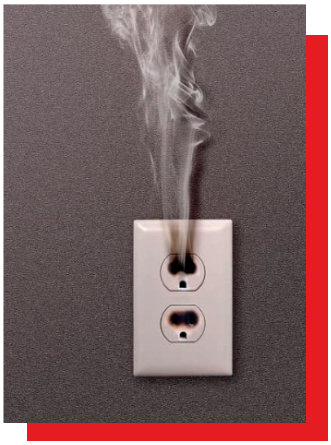
Electricity is an integral part of everyday life, which is why it is important for people to know the potential dangers that may come with its use. Approximately 24,200 residential building electrical fires were reported in 2021, causing roughly 295 deaths, 900 injuries, and upwards of $1.2 billion in property loss in the United States.

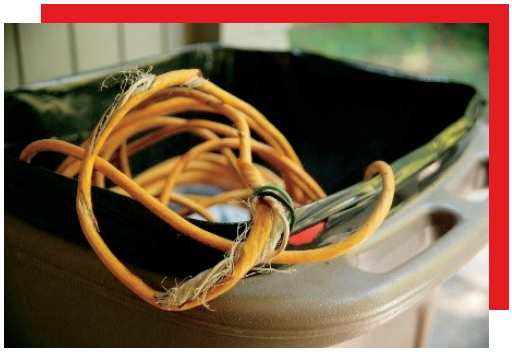
With May being National Electrical Safety Month, let's take a look at safety tips that can help prepare you to work safely with electricity in your home.

Electrical Fire Safety Tips:

- When installing major appliances, such as stoves, washers, dryers, and refrigerators, be sure to plug them directly into the wall outlet.
- Do not use extension cords with major appliances. The extension cord could easily overheat and start a fire.
- Plug small appliances directly into a wall outlet. When small appliances are not in use, be sure to unplug them. An example of a small appliance would be a coffee maker or toaster.
- Keep anything that can burn away from lamps, light fixtures, or light bulbs.
- When installing a light bulb onto a lamp or light fixture, make sure to follow the recommended wattage directions for that fixture.
- Regularly check electrical cords on appliances to make sure they are not damaged. If the cord is frayed, cracked, loose, or damaged in any other way, replace the appliance. Do not attempt to repair the cord yourself.
- Make sure to not overload outlets.
- Ensure plugs are fully pushed into the wall outlet socket. If plugs do not fit snugly in a wall outlet, replace the outlet.
- Do not force a three-prong cord into a two-slot outlet.
- If you have children, consider installing tamper-resistant electrical outlets.
- Do not use damaged, old, or worn extension cords.
- Remember, extension cords are only for temporary use.
- Never overload a power strip.
- Consider using power strips that have internal overload protection.
- Make sure extension cords are not placed in areas where they can be damaged or pinched.







Sources: U.S Fire Administration & NFPA.org

POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Police Week

National Police Week is May 12th to May 18th! 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 pays special recognition to law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.



Dunkin' Cop on a Rooftop

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 17, 2024 from 5:00 a.m. to noon! Please join the Crystal Lake Police Department for the 21st Anniversary of Cop on a Rooftop at Dunkin', 4817 Northwest Highway and 290 IL Route 31. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the Special Olympics athletes and come together as a community!

Officers will be stationed at both Dunkin' locations, raising funds to support the incredible athletes of the Special Olympics. With every donation, guests not only contribute to a great cause, but also receive a coupon for a free donut. Generous donations of $10 include a Law Enforcement Torch Run/Dunkin' branded tumbler (while supplies last), a coupon for a free medium hot or iced coffee, and the satisfaction of making a significant impact. Additionally, exclusive shirts and hats will be available for purchase at $20 per shirt and $15 per hat.



Text 911

Did you know you can text 911? In an emergency where calling isn't possible, simply enter 911 in the "to" field of your text message. Be sure to include your location and the type of emergency.

However, please call if you can as it's easier and faster for dispatchers to gather information and provide assistance. Remember, texts must be in english only!

See examples to the right of the cell phone image of when to text 911.



Click It or Ticket: Memorial Day Campaign

The Crystal Lake Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of all motorists on our roads. From May 20th to June 2nd, the Crystal Lake Police will be joining other law enforcement agencies across Illinois in the Click It or Ticket campaign, where we will be conducting extra patrols to enforce seat belt laws and promote safe driving practices.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself and your passengers is by buckling up. Whether you are going on a long road trip or just running a quick errand, remember to always wear your seat belt. It's not just the law; it's one of the safest choices you can make behind the wheel. Help us spread this message by sharing with friends and family members.



Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

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

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

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Lifeguarding Team

Applications to be a lifeguard at Three Oaks Recreation Area are still open! Lifeguards provide a safe environment for guests using the beach and this position provides a fun and team-friendly atmosphere. If you are interested in joining our lifeguard team, please visit the City of Crystal Lake website to complete an application from the Human Resources page.

Calendar Reminders

May

- Weekdays: Marina tentatively open mid-May
- Weekends: Marina open 6:30 a.m. to sunset, weather permitting
- May 25: Swim Beach opens at 10:00 a.m. for the season, weather permitting

June & July

- Open Water Swim (OWS) opens for Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. There will be no OWS on July 4th or 6th due to the holiday.

OWS Thursdays | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
June 6, 13, 20, & 27
July 11, 18, & 25

OWS Saturdays | 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
June 8, 15, 22, & 29
July 13, 20, & 27

Boat Rentals

Row boats will be available to rent, 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.

Beach Admission Change

New beach admission rates for Non-Residents will go into effect over opening weekend, May 25, 2024. New this year is the addition of the Veteran and Active Duty Service Members discount.

Residents with an address within the incorporated boundaries of the City of Crystal Lake will continue to receive free admission and the ability to bring five Non-Resident guests for $1 per person.

Adults (16 and Older)	$12 ($7 after 4:00 PM)
Youth (4-15 Years)	$7 ($4 after 4:00 PM)
Seniors (62 and Older)	$7 ($4 after 4:00 PM)
NEW! Veterans and Active Duty Service Members	$7 ($4 after 4:00 PM)

Please check our website for current hours of operation for all amenities

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

THIS HOUSE WAS ONCE...

DIANA KENNEY

There are many houses in Crystal Lake with unusual beginnings. From schools, churches and hotels to a dairy, convalescent home, library and even a train car. It's always fun to hear of new uses for old buildings. Perhaps this one tops them all!

After a recent program I presented on the subject, a resident asked me if I ever heard of the "chicken coop house". I was intrigued, and the wheels of research began to turn.

The house at 368 Crystal Lake Avenue is a small, single-story ranch home nestled in an eclectic neighborhood of homes and businesses. The house was built in 1946 by Clinton Marsh. After WWII, there was an extreme housing shortage in Crystal Lake and across the nation. There was also a shortage of building supplies. Clinton used a bit of ingenuity and some hard work and labor to provide a home for his young and growing family.

In April 1946, Clinton and Lorraine Marsh purchased a lot in the Meier's subdivision just east of the old Meier's Dairy building. About the same time, Clinton heard about some unused farm buildings being offered for sale by Joseph J. Hedrick, whose farm was located near Woodstock. Clinton had the idea to buy a couple of those farm buildings, move them to Crystal Lake and turn them into a house!



Clinton Marsh surveys his newly acquired buildings

The City of Crystal Lake approved a building permit to "move two 14'x20' one-story buildings from the Hedrick farm to Meier's subdivision on East Crystal Lake Avenue". The contractor listed on the permit was Fred Roewer. Estimated cost: $2,000.

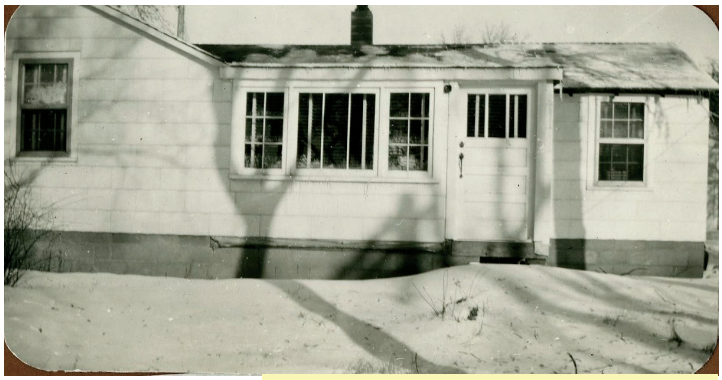
The two 14' x 20' buildings ended up being chicken coops. It is unknown if those coops were ever occupied by the chickens or if they were in "like new" condition. One of the Marsh's daughters confirmed the story about the chicken coops and also commented that she would be very surprised if her mother would have agreed to "used" chicken coops!

The buildings were carried on a flatbed truck and brought down Route 14 from Woodstock. A foundation was built, and the two coops were combined to form the starting base of the Marsh's house.

Note: Thank you to the Marsh family for sharing these vintage photos.



The whole family pitches in to help with the construction project



1949 photo of the finished house

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.

2024 Street Resurfacing Program

The 2024 Street Resurfacing Program is now underway. This year's program will include the following streets and locations shown in the table below. Crystal Lake's resurfacing program is structured to have concrete work at all locations completed before any asphalt work takes place. This includes curb replacement as needed and updating any sidewalk ramps that are not up to current ADA standards. Once the concrete work is completed in one area, the contractor temporarily fills in any holes in the pavement with stone, and moves onto the next area. Once all concrete work is complete, approximately 4 weeks later, the asphalt work begins. The existing asphalt surface is removed, if needed, the stone base is repaired, and then the asphalt layers are installed. The asphalt portion of the work typically only takes 4-5 days, and the road can be driven on within a few hours of installation. With proper maintenance, the new pavement surfaces should last for up to 20 years.

	Limits	
Street	From	To
Autumn Drive	Huntley Road	Barlina Road
Autumn Drive Court	Autumn Drive	Autumn Drive
Barlina Road	Huntley Road	W Limits
Crabapple Drive	Walnut Glen	Barlina Road
Harvest Circle	Barlina Road	Barlina Road
Harvest Court	Harvest Circle	S End
High Plane Drive	Crabapple Drive	Autumn Drive
Wheatland Drive	Barlina Road	S End
Wheatland Court	Wheatland Drive	W End
Devonshire Lane	Berkshire Drive	Lincolnshire Drive
Devonshire Lane	Lincolnshire Drive	Virginia Street
Circle Drive	Virginia Street	End
Elmhurst Street	Crystal Lake Avenue	Dole Avenue
Brink Street	Woodstock Street	Grant Street
Railroad Street Parking	Grant Street	Main Street
Abbington Drive	Dartmoor Drive	Barrow Drive
Wellington Drive	Nottingham Lane	Abbington Drive
North Hampton Drive	Wellington Drive	Berkshire Drive
Dover Court	Darlington Lane	Darlington Lane





Clearly CRYSTAL LAKE

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Crystal Lake is home to 2,560 businesses comprised of 27,420 employees. Over the next few months, Crystal Lake's top four largest manufacturers from smallest to largest will be highlighted.

Last month, Technipaq, Inc. was featured as the fourth largest. See below for Crystal Lake's third largest manufacturer.

CLAYENS

Last year, Crystal Lake had 1,100,122 square feet of commercial occupancies throughout the City including 473,000 square feet of manufacturing space utilized by Clayens, who occupied the former Cardinal Health facility. Clayens is the third largest manufacturing employer in Crystal Lake with 230 employees. Clayens is a global company based out of France that recently expanded and opened its first US plant location here in Crystal Lake last year.

They specialize in the processing of high-performance polymers and precision metal parts for various industries. Located at 815 Tek Drive, the Crystal Lake location manufactures sharps containers and syringes through thermoplastic injection molding. The Crystal Lake location features 88 injection molding machines for thermoplastics and 18 production lines including seven production lines in a Class 8 clean room.

For more information about Clayen job opportunities, visit their website at: http://www.clayens.com/en/implantation/clayens-crystal-lake.







National Public Works Week

Since 1960, the American Public Works Association (APWA) has sponsored National Public Works Week. Across North America, more than 32,000 members in the US and Canada use this week to energize and educate the public on the importance of public works in their daily lives. Planning, building, managing, and operating are at the heart of local communities to improve everyday quality of life.

APWA has announced "Advancing Quality of Life for All" as the theme for the 2024 National Public Works Week from May 19 - 25, 2024.



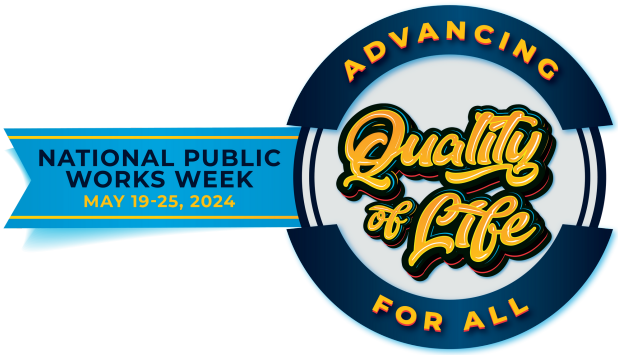






The City of Crystal Lake public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, and services that are of vital importance to a sustainable and resilient community by committing to public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the residents of the City.

The infrastructure, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are maintainers, engineers, managers, administrative staff, and employees at all levels of government and the private sector. These individuals are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our City's transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens.



CALENDAR | MAY 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday, May 27
City 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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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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