City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Top middle, right, and bottom right pictures provided by Kelsey of K-Adams Foto

The Johnny Appleseed Festival

The tradition continues with the 31st annual Johnny Appleseed Festival in Downtown Crystal Lake on Saturday, September 28 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.! This all-day event brings families and the community together to kick-off the fall season and its delights. It's apple-jam-packed with engaging activities such as wagon rides, a pumpkin train, children's games, big inflatables for young kids, a large craft fair, pumpkin bowling, story-telling, live music, dancing, food trucks, apple cider donuts, a scarecrow on stilts, and even Johnny Appleseed himself! This year, look for a new section focused on young teens ages 12 – 16, with inflatable axe-throwing, hoops, karaoke, and a dunk tank.

This September also marks the 250th birthday of John Chapman (the real Johnny Appleseed), so look for festive nods to this landmark birthday celebration throughout!

Johnny Appleseed concludes with a fun, unique raffle:

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The Great Ball Race! Numbered raffle tickets are sold at $10 each, representing a chance at winning $1,000. Brightly colored plastic balls are numbered to correspond with raffle tickets. The balls are released and rolled down Brink Street at 3:00 p.m., with the fastest ball to make it through the funnel winning for its owner. You can purchase raffle tickets corresponding to numbered balls on the day of the event, or in advance at the Downtown Farmers Market throughout the month of September.

For more information and to secure free entry tickets to Johnny Appleseed, visit the official event web page: downtowncl.org/johnny-festival.

(Tickets are not required for entry but will ensure that you are informed via email of any changes or important updates. Tickets and wristbands for various activities will be sold at the festival.)

If you're interested in assisting with any volunteer needs, please contact events@downtowncl.org.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stop. Trains Can't.

Injuries and deaths occur at rail crossings every day. Most of these tragedies are preventable. Though highway rail crossing incidents and fatalities declined dramatically for decades, the number of drivers going around lowered gates has increased in recent years. Even in an emergency, some trains can take a mile or more to stop.

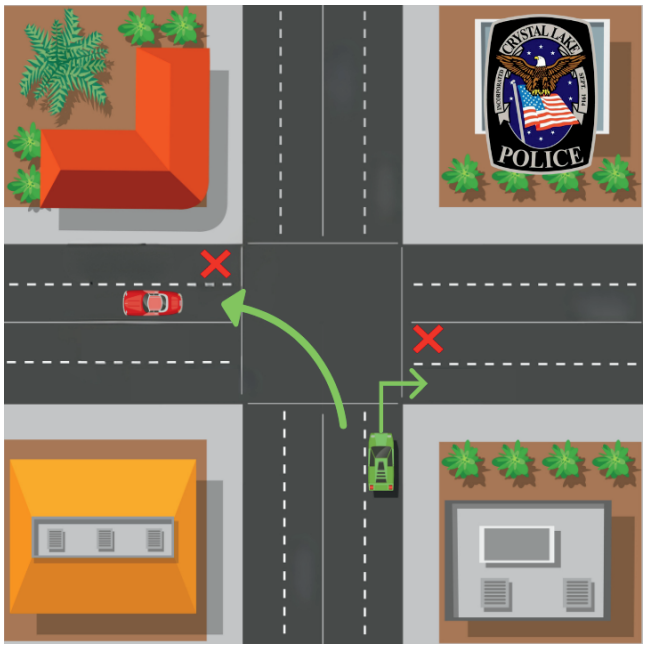
Here are 7 Steps for Navigating Freight and Commuter Train Crossings:

- Stop, look both ways, and listen. Remember that trains always have the right of way.
- Make sure you have room to get across. Once you enter the crossing, keep moving.
- Stop 15 feet away from flashing red lights, lowered gates, a signaling flagman or a stop sign.
- Never try to drive around a lowering gate. Never ignore signals, and always use caution.
- Before you begin to cross, wait for gates to fully rise and for all lights to stop flashing.
- Never assume that there is only one train coming from a single direction.
- If your car stalls on a rail track, quickly get everyone out – even if you don't see a train coming.

Driver Safety Reminder

When driving, it's essential to ensure the safety of all road users by turning into the correct lane. Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- **Right Turns**: When making a right turn, always turn into the lane closest to the curb. This helps maintain a smooth traffic flow and reduces the risk of collisions.
- **Left Turns**: For left turns, enter the lane closest to the center line of the road you're turning onto. This helps you avoid cutting across multiple lanes of traffic and minimizes potential conflicts with other vehicles.









National Night Out Success

We would like to send a heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined the Crystal Lake Police Department for National Night Out! A big shout out to our generous sponsors including Farmers Market+ at the Dole, Ed's Rental, Eby Graphics, and Ultra Strobe. We also want to express our appreciation to all other vendors, local first responder agencies, and the community for coming together to make National Night Out a tremendous success.

As we look back on the unforgettable moments shared during National Night Out, we're reminded of the strong sense of unity within our community!



Coffee with the Chief

Join us this October for an engaging session with Chief Black! While the exact date and topic are still under wraps, we promise an informative discussion that you will not want to miss! Be the first to know by following the Crystal Lake Police Department on Facebook. We'll be sharing all the details, including the event's schedule and topic. We look forward to sharing a cup of coffee with you soon!

School Bus Safety

Many students rely on school buses to get them safely to and from school. As a community, let's do our part to help. If you are driving, remember these simple rules:

- **Yellow flashing lights** indicate the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. You should slow down and prepare to stop your vehicle.

- **Red flashing lights and extended stop arms** indicate the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. You must stop your car and wait until the red lights stop flashing and the extended stop-arm is withdrawn. Once the bus begins moving, you can start driving again.

- Even when lights aren't flashing, watch for children, particularly in the morning or mid-afternoon, around school arrival and dismissal times. Be alert as you back out of a driveway, or drive through a neighborhood, school zone or bus stop.

Source: NHTSA.org



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!

Crystal Lake Youth Commission

The City Council approved the formation of a new Youth Commission in May 2024 to study, investigate, plan, implement and advise the City Council on matters related to youth. In particular, the Commission is charged with recommending policies, programs and services that empower, support and inform youth; that create a family friendly community; and that enable and encourage youth to be productive members of the community.

The Crystal Lake Youth Commission is committed to advocating for youth by providing them the opportunity to learn, lead and serve through community outreach, service projects and establishing youth-adult partnerships.

The Youth Commission will hold its first meeting in the Fall of 2024 and the City is seeking interested applicants from the community. Applicants must be age 16 to 20 years old and attend Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake South High School, Prairie Ridge High school, Haber Oaks, Crystal Lake Private High schools, home school (in Crystal Lake), or McHenry County College.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Nick Hammonds, Deputy City Manager, at (815) 356-3675 or nhammonds@crystallake.org to obtain an application.

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month which means it is time to either create or review your emergency preparedness plan. A disaster or emergency can strike at any moment and being prepared can make a difference for you and your family.

A first step to help prepare you and your family is to build an emergency supply kit. Here are some ideas for items you could include in your emergency supply kit:

- **Water:** Keep a gallon of water per person, per day, stocked for emergencies. Depending on where you live, you may want to keep anywhere from three to fourteen days supply of water on hand
- **Food:** Stock up on non-perishable food. For example, cans and dry goods
- **Cash:** Have enough cash on hand to purchase food, fuel, and a few nights at a hotel in case you need to evacuate your home
- Can opener and any other food preparation tools you may need
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- N-95 respirator masks
- Wrench (or pliers) to shut off utilities
- Local Maps

This list does not include everything you may want or need in your emergency supply kit. Other items to consider could include paper and pencil, sleeping bags or blankets, extra food and water for pets, feminine hygiene products, or cleaning supplies. Every person and family's needs are different, so it is important to tailor the items included in your emergency supply kit to match your needs.





Sources: Ready.gov

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640

Follow the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department on Facebook for safety tips, events, and community updates!

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

September Hours of Operation

Labor Day Weekend, August 31 - September 2

Swim Beach: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Marina: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

September 3 - 30

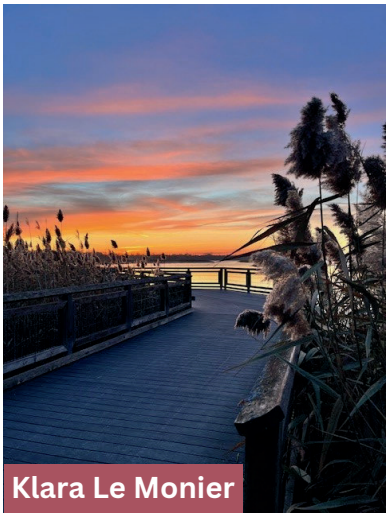
Swim Beach: Closed for the season
Marina: Open Saturdays and Sundays only*

*Please check the website for the most up to date hours

Guest Photos


Rare Love Film


Alissa Marie


Klara Le Monier


Carole Hubbard


Megan Babich

OUR CHIEF

DIANA KENNEY

Among the multitude of headstones in Union Cemetery on Woodstock Street is a flat marker which simply reads, “Our Chief”. At first glance, the marker looks out of place, but a closer inspection quickly reveals it was installed to honor former Crystal Lake Police Chief, George J. Ehlert.



George J. Ehlert Grave Marker

George J. Ehlert was born September 18, 1881 on the family farm in Kane County. Three years later, his father, Christian Ehlert, purchased the James Burton farm in Grafton Township and moved his family north to McHenry County. In 1904, George married Annie Smith/Schmidt in the Immanuel German Lutheran Church of Crystal Lake. The couple would have two children grow to adulthood: Arnold (b. 1908) and Helen (b. 1916).

After marrying Annie, George tried his hand in a number of professions. He worked for the American Terra Cotta Company, rented and farmed his own land and even opened a saloon on Williams Street. But in 1915, he found his lifelong profession when George J. Ehlert was appointed to the Crystal Lake Police Department as Night Watchman. Ehlert patrolled the area we now know as Downtown Crystal Lake. The Chief of Police, John Purvey assigned himself to safeguard the area along Virginia Street. Each man was paid a salary of $65 per month.

In 1922, 1926 and 1934 George Ehlert ran unsuccessfully for the office of McHenry County Sheriff. His chief rival was Lester “Doc” Edinger, who held the office for twelve non-consecutive years. George continued to work night shift for the Crystal Lake Police Department.

George was a sports enthusiast. He enjoyed watching his son Arnold (CLCHS Class of 1928) compete in sports. Arnold was a stand-out football player (named “All-State”), basketball player and all-around athlete. George’s favorite major league baseball team was the St. Louis Cardinals. It is said you could always tell if the Cardinals were having a good day by the smile (or lack of) on George’s face.

By 1930, George’s original policeman salary was doubled to $130 per month. Also in 1930, the Crystal Lake Herald reported that George was the top ticket-seller for the Fire Department’s Annual Fundraiser Dinner/Dance. For the next fifteen years, George continually sold the most tickets to this event. Because of his commitment to the fundraiser, Ehlert was considered an honorary member of the Fire Department.



George J. Ehlert

After 26 years of working the night patrol, George Ehlert switched shifts and became a day officer in February 1941. Alderman, Charles Ormsby said that he thought, “It was time we have a police officer on duty during the day here and that Mr. Ehlert should be appointed to this post”. With this new shift, George was now on duty from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. William Rehberg was named night officer. Three months later, it was noted that Chief John Purvey had been off duty since December 1939 due to illness, and although the city had been paying him his full salary, it was time for Purvey to step aside and let George J. Ehlert lead the department.

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For the next five years, George J. Ehlert served our city as Chief of Police. Throughout the summer of 1946, George would say repeatedly, “the Cardinals will be in first place any day now”. On July 19, 1946 Chief George J. Ehlert died of a stroke. On the day of his death, the Cardinals took over first place in the league. His obituary describes a man that the children called “George” and a policeman who “favored warnings in cases of infringements rather than being over-bearing and abusive”. Chief Ehlert was well-liked and well-respected.

George Ehlert’s final resting place in Union Cemetery is just 20 feet away from his predecessor, John Purvey who had been Chief of Police for decades. Yet, it is George J. Ehlert who was honored with an extra marker at the foot of his grave that simply says, “Our Chief”.

About the Author: Diana Kenney is President of the Crystal Lake Historical Society. To contact Diana, email info@cl-hs.org.

Curbside Electronics Recycling

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of September 9 - 13, 2024. Residents may set out a maximum of five electronic items, including a limit of one TV or one computer monitor. The electronics will be collected on residents' regularly scheduled collection day. LRS will conduct the next electronics collection week in March 2025. The following table details which items may and may not be set out for electronics collection.

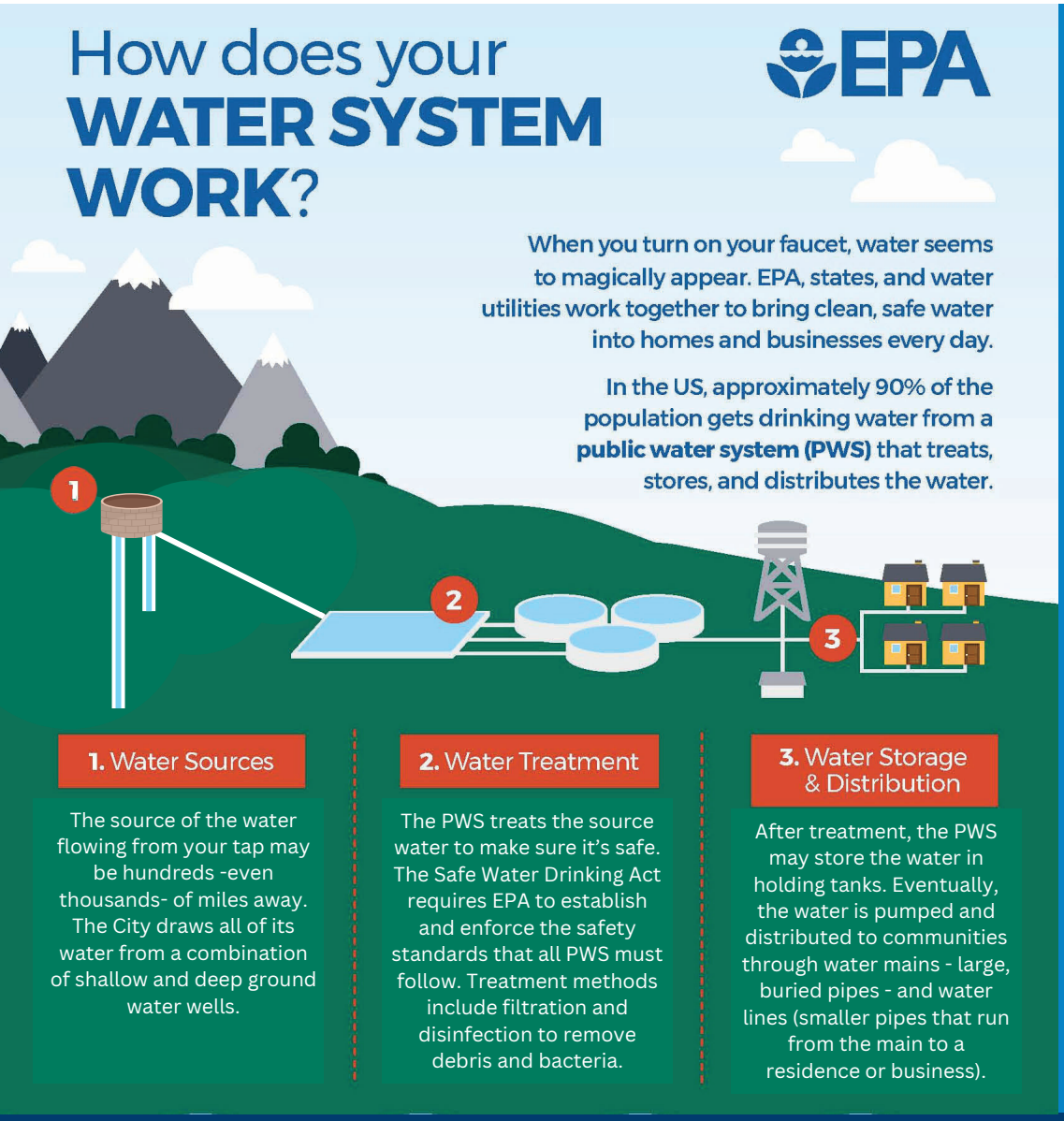
Please contact LRS at (844) 633-3577 with any questions regarding the electronics collection event.

Acceptable Electronic Items	
One Television or one Computer monitor	Fax Machines and Printers
Cell Phones, Telephones, and Tablets	Holiday Lights
Cameras	Modems
CD Players	Paper Shredders
Computer Drives	Satellite Receivers
Cords and Cables	Scanners
Electronic Mice and Keyboards	Stereos and Video Game Consoles

Items NOT Accepted	
Air Conditioners	Hair Dryers and Hair Irons
Batteries	Humidifiers
Appliances and Refrigerators	Liquids or Chemical Waste
Battery Operated Children's Toys	Smoke and Fire Detectors
Coffee Makers	Packaging Materials
Computer Disks	Microwaves
Dishwashers	Water Softeners

McHenry County Green Guide

If you are looking to dispose of items that are difficult to get rid of and cannot be collected with the standard garbage and recycling services, McHenry County College publishes an annual guide of proper disposal locations to help. The McHenry County Green Guide provides resources for the recycling of items such as batteries, appliances, lightbulbs, makeup, and much more. Be sure to take advantage of this great county-wide resource. The Green Guide is available online through the McHenry County College and a printed version can also be requested by emailing sustainability@mchenry.edu. A version of this document is also available in Spanish.



How do I know my water is safe?

America's drinking water is among the safest in the world. The City of Crystal Lake releases an Annual Water Quality Report every year. Also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), this report is produced each year as mandated by the federal government. The CCR lists the levels of contaminants that have been detected in the water, including those identified by the EPA, and whether the PWS meets state and EPA drinking water standards. The City's reports cover January 1 - December 31st of each year. To read the most current CCR, visit

https://www.crystallake.org/home/showpublisheddocument/23231/638503344486400000.

There are more than 151,000 Public Water Systems in the U.S.

Community Water Systems (CWS)

CWS provide water to the same population year-round. Most people—more than 300 million—in the U.S. get their water from a CWS.

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

Be A Tourist in Your Own Town

The City of Crystal Lake in partnership with Naturally McHenry County is encouraging individuals to, “Be A Tourist in Your Own Town”. Go out to experience and learn about the various activities and amenities that Crystal Lake has to offer! Download the Naturally McHenry County app and join the challenge. Then, go around town to the different locations, find the sign with information about the scavenger hunt and a code to enter into the app to check-in at the location. The program will run July 29 through November 1. Once you have completed and checked-in at 12 of the 16 sites, you will earn a Crystal Lake tumbler! For more information, visit https://www.naturallymchenrycounty.com/.../crystal-lake.../.

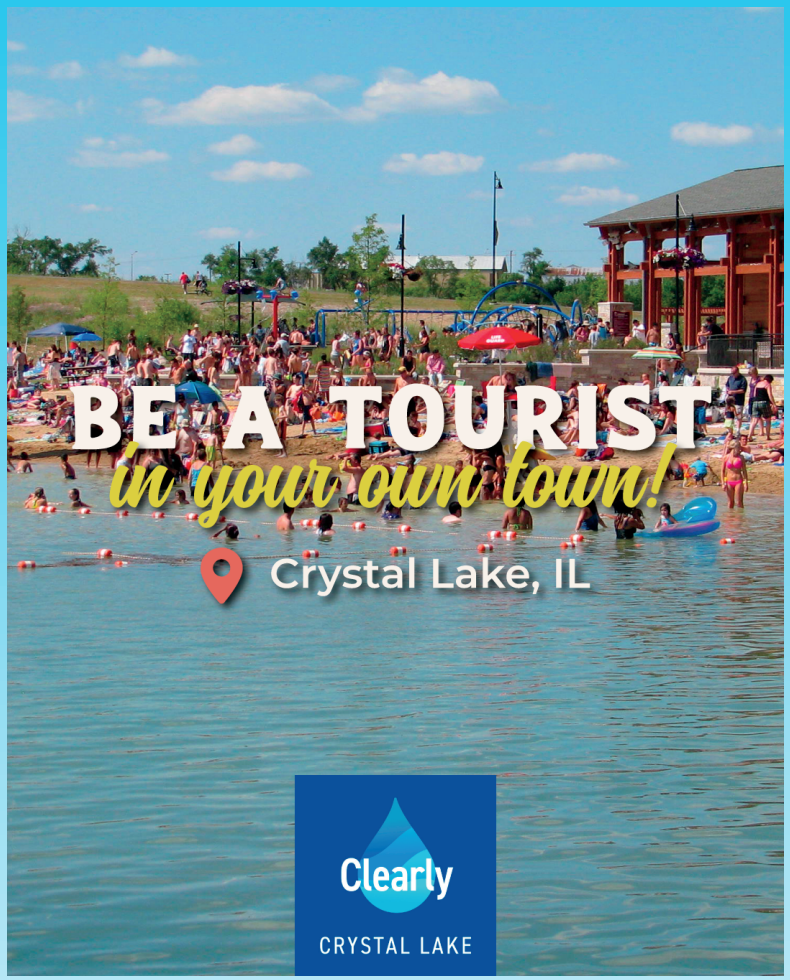
Explore Crystal Lake and Win a FREE Tumbler

Experience the best of Crystal Lake, IL, with our new exciting challenge!

Follow these steps to get started:

1. Download the Naturally McHenry County, IL App in the Apple App Store or on Google Play
2. Select the menu icon in the top left corner of the app, then select “Challenges”
3. Select “Be A Tourist in Your Own Town - Crystal Lake”
4. Visit at least 12 of the 16 locations on the list and use the check-in code found at each stop
5. When you have visited at least 12 stops, select “Submit”, and a notification will be sent to Naturally McHenry County with the email you used registered your account. Please register with an email address, NOT an Apple ID as Naturally McHenry County will reach out with instructions on where to pick up your Crystal Lake tumbler!

Join us in celebrating the charm and attractions of Crystal Lake. Explore, enjoy, and earn rewards with Naturally McHenry County and Clearly Crystal Lake!



The Quarry

Extend your summer fun at the Quarry through the month of September! Wakeboarding wraps up on Labor Day, but the Quarry is excited to announce that the Lakeside Bar & Grille will be open Friday and Saturday evenings from 4:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. until Sunday, September 22. Enjoy live music every Friday and Saturday night at your favorite lakeside venue, including themed nights that include a **U2 Tribute Band** and a **Summer Nights Grease Party**. Once summer comes to an end, be ready to kick off Fall with **Oktoberfest** during the last weekend of September.







CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER 2024

Monday, September 2
City Offices Closed

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

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

Thursday, September 5
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 11
Public Arts Commission Meeting
8:00 A.M.

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

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

Wednesday, September 18
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

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 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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