City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
# CITYLETTER










## Fire Rescue Department Open House

Join the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department on Saturday, October 5th for the annual Open House! From 9:00 a.m. to Noon, we will be offering blood pressure checks, interactive safety stations, fire safety demonstrations, apparatus displays, games, and much more!

Location: Fire Station 1, 100 W. Woodstock Street

**Halloween Trick-or-Treating Hours** Page 3

**Fall Leaf Collection** Page 5

**Clearly Crystal Lake - Around Town** Page 10

# Fire Prevention Week

Each year, during the week of October 9th, Fire Prevention Week is observed in remembrance of the Great Chicago Fire. The National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week since 1922. During this week, children and adults learn how to stay safe during a fire emergency. Firefighters teach lifesaving education in their communities in an effort to substantially decrease casualties caused by fires. This year the NFPA's campaign for Fire Prevention is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!"

Here are a few smoke alarm safety tips to kick off this year's Fire Prevention Week safety initiative:

- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Make sure everyone in your home recognizes the sound of the smoke alarms in your home and knows how they should respond when they alert.
- Interconnected smoke alarms offer the best protection. When one sounds, they all sound.
  - It is particularly important to have interconnection smoke alarms if you sleep with doors closed.
- Make sure smoke alarms are present in every sleeping room, outside of each sleeping area, and on every level of your home.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



## HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- **Use glow sticks or battery-operated candles for jack-o'-lanterns and other Halloween decorations.**
- **When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.**
- **Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.**
- **Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o'-lanterns with candles in them.**
- **Keep Halloween decorations away from open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and heaters.**

*Sources: NFPA.org*

**Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640**

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

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Halloween Safety

As Halloween approaches, it's important to keep safety in mind while enjoying the festivities. From candy to costumes, Halloween is always filled with fun activities. To help ensure a safe holiday, here are some tips:

- 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.
- Make sure that everyone understands they should stay with the group.
- Help your children check their candy. Discard any items with torn or punctured packaging.
- Be cautious around roadways. Cross streets at crosswalks, obey traffic signals, and look both ways before crossing.
- If you plan on attending an event where alcohol is served, be sure to plan a safe ride home.



## Trick-or-Treating Hours

Halloween is on Thursday, October 31st. The recommended hours for Trick-or-Treating in Crystal Lake are 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Halloween.

## Halloween Events

Join us for some early Halloween fun at the Crystal Lake Park District's event at Main Beach (300 Lakeshore Drive) on Saturday, October 26th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon! This free event is open to all ages-rain or shine. Wear your costume and bring a treat bag to collect goodies from trucks and other community organization displays, including the Crystal Lake Police Department! We look forward to seeing you there.




**Continued on Page 4**

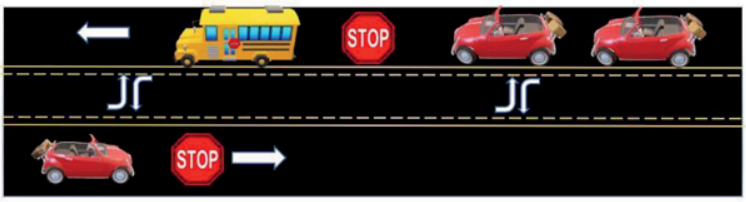
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# National School Bus Safety Week

As we observe National School Bus Safety Week from October 21 - 25, it's important to remember the rules of the road when it comes to school buses. Here are some essential tips for drivers:

- Stop for school buses: Always stop when a school bus is loading or unloading children, indicated by its extended stop sign and flashing red lights.
- Stay alert: Watch for children near bus stops and be cautious in school zones. Stay focused and avoid distractions.
- Obey speed limits: Follow speed limits, especially in school zones and residential areas where children are more likely to be present.

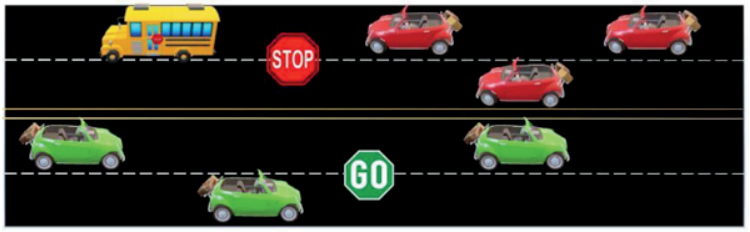
Know what to do in different road scenarios:



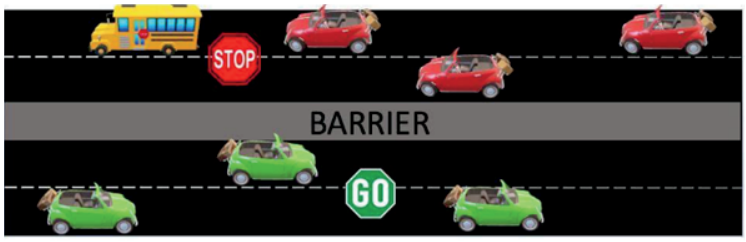

**Two-Lane Roadway with Center Turn Lane**: When school bus stops to unload passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.




**Two-Lane Roadway**: When school bus stops to unload passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.




**Four-Lane Roadway without a Median Separation**: When school bus stops to unload passengers, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.




**Divided Highway of Four Lanes or More with a Median Separation**: When school bus stops to unload passengers, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.

# Coffee with the Chief

Join the Crystal Lake Police Department on October 8th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Coffee with Chief Black! This month, the discussion will focus on cyberbullying. Chief Black, along with a Detective, School Resource Officer, and Police Social Worker, will provide valuable insights and answer your questions about this important issue.

Location: 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake Police Department

Please RSVP to Officer Kris at Kstolzman@crystallake.org or 815-356-3673. We hope you can join us for this informative session!

**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!**

# 2024 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 approved a water and sewer user fee increase as part of the 2024B 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 community's water and wastewater operations, including five 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 | $8.43 | $8.68 | $0.25 |
| Each 1,000 Gallons | $5.74 | $5.91 | $0.17 |
| **Sewer Rate** | **Previous** | **New** | **Difference** |
| Monthly Service Charge | $10.06 | $10.36 | $0.30 |
| Each 1,000 Gallons | $5.75 | $5.92 | $0.17 |

| Average Monthly Consumption | Previous Monthly Bill | New Monthly Bill | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4,000 Gallons Per Month | $64.45 | $66.36 | $1.91 |
| 10,000 Gallons Per Month | $133.39 | $137.34 | $3.95 |

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

# 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 will begin Monday, October 7th and will continue until Friday, December 13th. 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.



# 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.



## Thank You!

As the 2024 season draws to an end, we want to thank our incredible team of Marina Attendants, Lifeguards, and Managers for their contribution and dedication to making 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 for their contributions and services.



Geoff Jenkins



Todd Rakofsky

**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**

# Night on the Town

Ladies Night Out is now, "Night on the Town"! Enjoy this sprawling evening event in Downtown Crystal Lake on Thursday, October 17th from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. full of specials and deals. Stop by Depot Park first for a map of participating businesses and their offers. Then, shop and check out some outdoor pop-ups of "off the beaten path" Downtown businesses. Grab a group of friends, make it a date night, or just treat yourself. Downtown Crystal Lake is the place to be on October 17!




# Halloween Handout

Come trick-or-treat among the Downtown shops on Thursday, October 31st from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.!

The Halloween Handout is intended for kids ages 12 and under, but feel free to come as a family with all ages. Look in windows for the orange pumpkin sign for candy, and a teal pumpkin for non-candy items. We can't wait to see your costumes parading along our charming Downtown sidewalks!

Learn more about the Teal Pumpkin Project at FARE (Food Allergy Research & Education) https://www.foodallergy.org/resources/about-teal-pumpkin-project.



# BLANTON'S POULTRY FARM AND KITCHEN

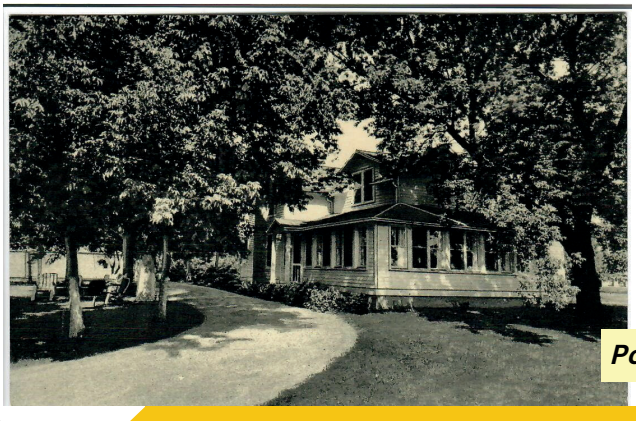
DIANA KENNEY

Situated on the far west end of the lake, just beyond the city limits, there is a block of land bounded by North Avenue, Pauline, Della/Teresa and Georgine Streets. This block is technically known as Block 13 of Westmoor Gardens Subdivision and is considered unincorporated Crystal Lake.

Most blocks in a subdivision have an orderly layout of buildings, but not Block 13! There are 12 little cottages (some are multi-units) and a larger house. Most of the cottages are white, although some now have gray siding. The cottages are arranged in a haphazard manner within the boundaries of the block. One has to wonder, what is the history behind Block 13?

In the early 1940s, Richard and Faye Blanton came to Crystal Lake. They purchased all of Block 13 in Westmoor Gardens Subdivision and set about to operate a poultry farm. The Herald reported that Richard had an accident and passed away, leaving Faye in charge of the poultry farm. At first, she continued to run the farm and commute to a job in Chicago at the Martha Washington Hospital. She soon realized she couldn't do it all, so for one year she leased the poultry farm operations to Vern T. and Eloise Durbin, while she moved back to the city. After the year was up, Faye decided to take charge of the poultry farm herself and to make some changes. Faye Blanton had much bigger dreams and wanted to expand beyond the poultry farm operation.

In April 1947, Faye applied to the McHenry County Zoning Board to rezone her approximate 5 acres of land from agricultural purposes to business purposes. The request was approved, and she became the proprietress of "Blanton's Farm Kitchen".



***Postcard showing Blanton's Farm Kitchen***

The main house on the property was completely remodeled to provide room for a large kitchen and dining room. Blanton's offered chicken dinners from birds grown on the farm. It also served steak dinners and advertised, "fresh, farm-grown vegetables". On Friday nights, they served up a delicious Fish Fry.

In addition to opening the restaurant, Mrs. Blanton was able to hire men to convert some of her well-constructed chicken coops into cottages. Four of the buildings became furnished single-room cottages. A separate shower building was constructed to serve the needs of those who lived in the single-room cottages. Two other buildings became year-round cottages with two bedrooms, a bathroom, kitchen and dining/living room. Another building was converted into a duplex for two families to live year-round. Mrs. Blanton's farm manager and his wife lived in one of the cottages and managed the poultry operation, the restaurant and cottage rentals while she continued to work in Chicago.

In 1949, Faye Blanton married her former tenant, Vern T. Durbin. The farm and restaurant were renamed to "Durbin's". Unfortunately, the marriage did not last. In 1953, Faye was granted a divorce from V.T. Durbin on charges of cruelty. Her story does have a happy ending when she married Van Wilson in 1959.

Faye and Van Wilson continued to rent the cottages on a short and long-term basis. They retained ownership of Block 13 until 1970. Since then, the owners of Block 13 have invested resources into upgrading and improving the cottages. The haphazard layout of the block is now explained and has become somewhat endearing as a salute to the layout of the original chicken coops at Blanton's Poultry Farm and Kitchen.

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

# CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

## Around Town

Crystal Lake is experiencing a surge of exciting new commercial activity! The City is excited to welcome a wide array of new entrants to our market.

### New Businesses

**CHICAGO RAMEN**

Chicago Ramen located at 230 W. Virginia Street, Unit 250 in the Country Corners Shopping Center is now open. A Tokyo native, Ikehata has developed a devoted following at Chicago Ramen where he brings diners dishes from his hometown. The restaurant's specialties include tsukemen, also known as dipping ramen along with beef curry, white miso and red miso ramen.

**orangetheory FITNESS**

Orange Theory, an American boutique fitness studio that provides full body workout classes recently opened at 6232 Northwest Highway.

**SIERRA**

Sierra is a bargain retailer like TJ Maxx, but for outside gear and sporting clothes. Offering a wide variety of known quality brands at discount prices, Sierra is located at 5794 Northwest Highway. This will be the first Sierra location in the McHenry County area.

**KD FRESH MARKET**

KD Market is now open in Crystal Lake at 29 Crystal Lake Plaza, featuring a wide variety of American and European products.




**Burlington**

Burlington recently relocated and is now open in their new location at 5786 Northwest Highway in Crystal Point Mall Shopping Center next to Sierra.

**Continued on Page 10**

Continued from Page 9

## Coming Soon

Nothing Bundt Cakes, opening before the holiday season in the Bohl Farm Marketplace Shopping Center, specializes in bundt cakes and individual bite-size bundtinis in various flavors for all occasions. They have over 500 bakery locations in over 40 states and have become the nation's largest specialty cake company offering a modern spin on a classic treat.

The former Buy Buy Baby site located at 5540 Northwest Highway will be divided into two spaces for Michaels and Daiso. Daiso is a family owned company, known for a vast array of products including Japanese inspired home decor, stationery, food, and beauty products. They currently have locations in California, Washington and Texas and will be expanding into the Illinois market. Michaels, a national arts and crafts store offers a wide range of products including frames and seasonal decor. Together these retailers have something for everyone and encompass a wide range of products that will be beneficial to the expanding retail offerings in the community.

## Business Anniversary

**Congratulations to Heartland Cabinet Supply on their 25th Anniversary!**



# The Quarry

Did you know, along with select year-round community events, the Quarry is also open throughout the year for private and corporate events. As we enter sweater weather, let the Quarry help you do the hosting! For a truly unique and elevated experience, book your Halloween parties, Friendsgivings, holiday parties, family gatherings, showers, happy hours and other important events at our beautiful, lakeside venue. To inquire about private events, please complete an event request on the Quarry's website, www.thequarrycablepark.com or email events@thequarrycablepark.com.







# CALENDAR | OCTOBER 2024

**Tuesday, October 1**
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, October 2**
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

**Thursday, October 3**
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, October 15**
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

**Wednesday, October 16**
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:30 P.M.

**Wednesday, October 16**
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

**Tuesday, October 22**
Economic Development Committee Meeting
8:00 A.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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*City of Crystal Lake*
*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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