City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Festival of Lights Parade

Join us for the Annual Festival of Lights Parade in Downtown Crystal Lake on November 29 (the day after Thanksgiving) at 7:00 p.m. This is the only night-time parade in Crystal Lake, and it's always a festive, fun time to kick off the holiday season. This year's theme is, "*Wish You Were Here: An Island Christmas*". Get ready to light up the night with tropical holiday vibes—think palm trees, ukuleles, leis and lights. Bring your family, friends, and your holiday spirit. Don't miss the chance to experience a little slice of paradise in the community this season!

For the second year in a row, Santa's Village is lending Downtown Crystal Lake the Santa Sleigh, which caps off the parade. This happens to be the very same sleigh that was in the movie, *Miracle on 34th Street*! The only other parade they lend the sleigh to is the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago, just one day before the Festival of Lights Parade. Very special! See you all there!

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FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Thank You!

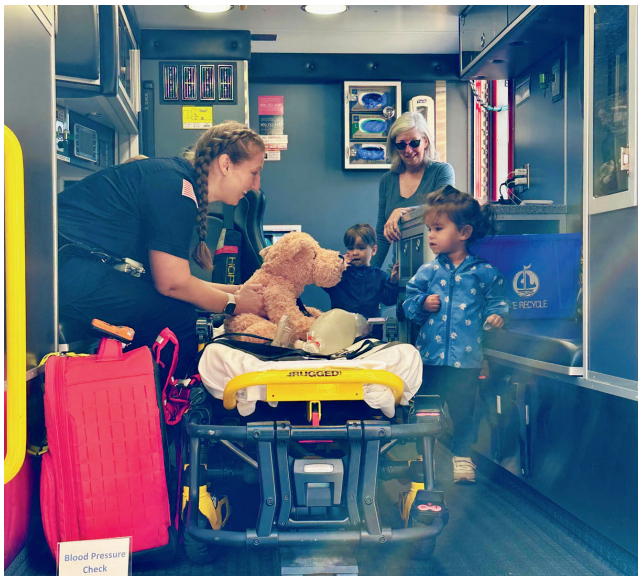
This year's Annual Open House event was a great success! Thank you to everyone in the community for taking the time to come out and learn about fire safety and, of course, have a great time!

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department could not have planned this amazing event without the help of the vendors and volunteers who came to share their organizations with our community. Thank you!

Additionally, we would like to give a shout out to the National Honor Society students from High School District 155 for choosing our event to earn their volunteer hours.













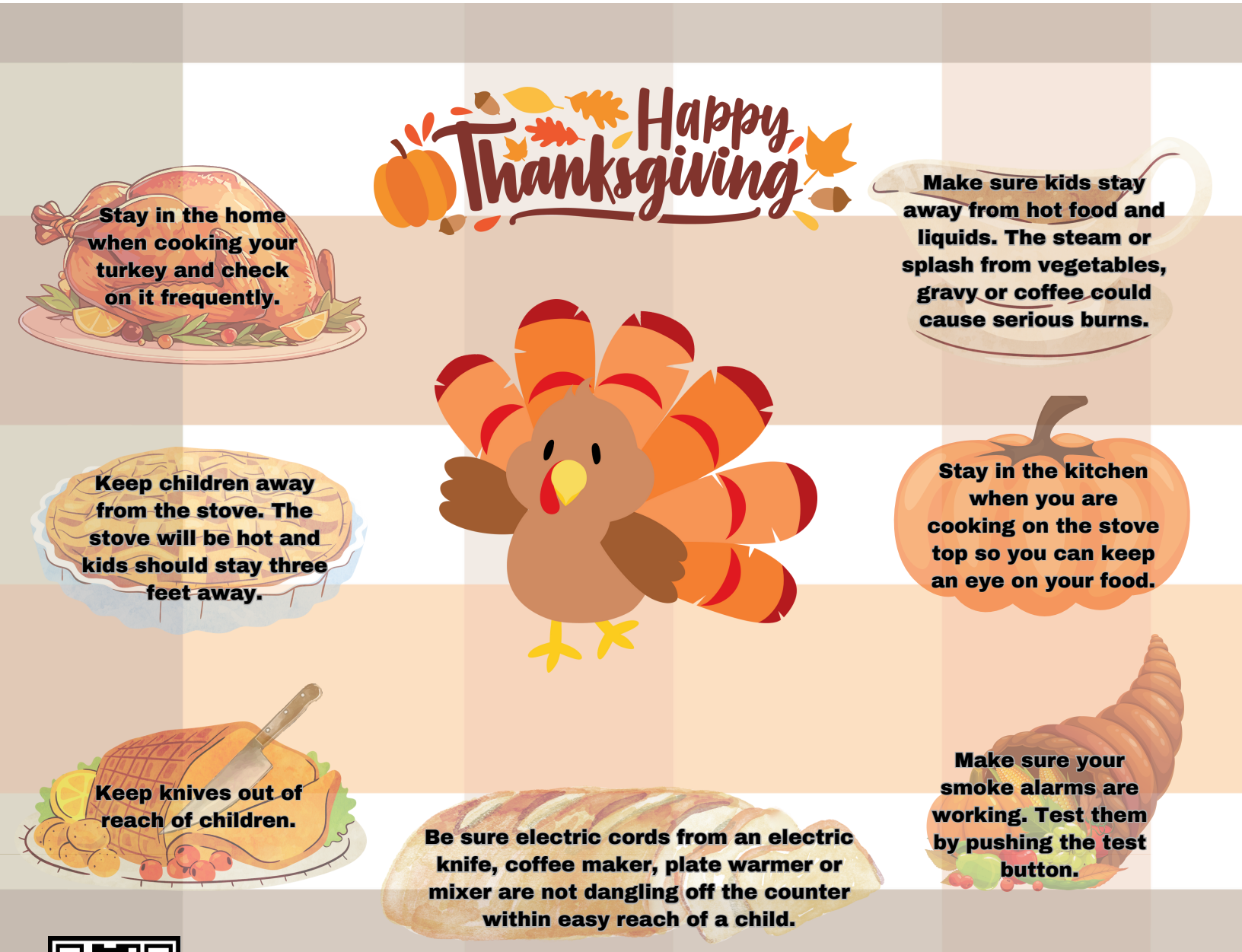


Thanksgiving Safety

According to the National Fire Protection Association, Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires. Home cooking fires are reported more than three times the daily average on Thanksgiving and the leading cause for these fires was unattended cooking. Always supervise what you are cooking!

Take a look at some of the safety tips below to help make sure you and your family are safe during your Thanksgiving gathering!

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

Toys for Tots

Every year, the Crystal Lake Police Department proudly partners with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program to bring joy to children in McHenry County. This tradition continues as we collect new, unwrapped toys to brighten the holiday season for those in need. This year, we especially need toys for children ages zero to two and ten and above.

When: We are accepting toy donations from now through December 9th.

Where: You can drop off your new, unwrapped toys in the marked Toys for Tots cardboard box located in the Police Department Lobby, 100 W. Woodstock Street. Our lobby is open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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.



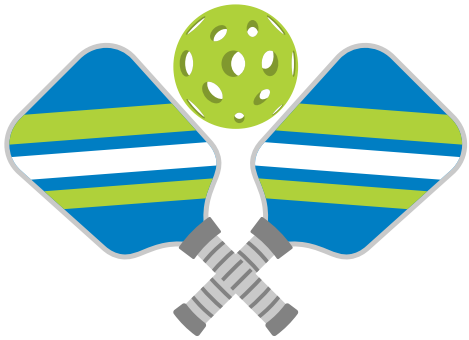
Pickleball Tournament

Join the Crystal Lake Police Department for a pickleball tournament to support Special Olympics!

Get ready to have some fun while supporting a great cause. Our Department is excited to host its first pickleball tournament on Sunday, December 8, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m. at the Racket Club of Crystal Lake, located at 9101 S. IL Route 31.

This event is open to the public, and we invite players of all skill levels to participate. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit Special Olympics.

Sign up details will be announced soon, so be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates. We look forward to seeing you there for a day of fun and friendly competition!



Thanksgiving Safety

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 for all.

Thanksgiving is renowned 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 27th, is a pre-Thanksgiving holiday known for celebratory activities that often involve alcohol. We urge you to engage in these festivities responsibly and to never consider impaired driving as an option.

The Crystal Lake Police Department will maintain a strong presence on the roads throughout 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.

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!

2025 Crystal Lake Calendar

The Crystal Lake Historical Society is proud to present the 2025 Calendar, "We Built This City".

This calendar features the individuals and companies that built many of the homes, stores, churches and schools throughout Crystal Lake.

Our community has a rich architectural history from cobblestones to fieldstones, enough to say (or sing!) "We Built This City on Rocks and Stones".

The calendar can be purchased in person for $10.00 at:

- Crystal Lake City Hall
- Colonel Palmer House
- Heisler's Bootery
- The Inside Scoop Ice Cream

The calendar can also be purchased online for $14.00 which includes shipping and handling, at: www.cl-hs.org.



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Trails and 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.

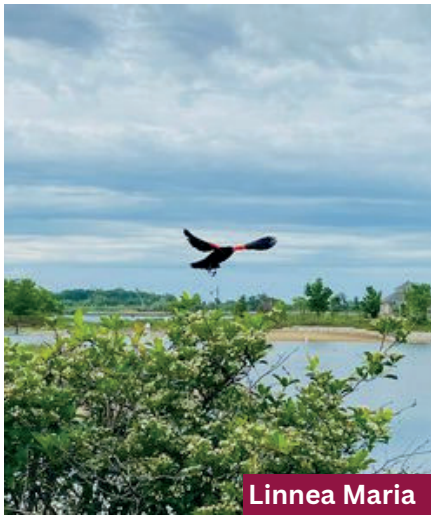
Employment

Beginning in December, the City of Crystal Lake will open its annual employment application for seasonal positions at Three Oaks for the 2025 season. Keep an eye out for these openings on the City website under the employment tab!

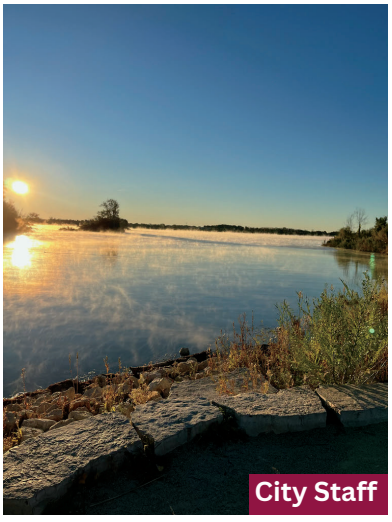
Photo Submissions

The City encourages park guests to submit pictures taken enjoying the park. With permission from guests, photos submitted to Three Oaks will have the opportunity to have their pictures featured on Facebook and in the City Newsletter.

Proper photo credits will be given as well. Pictures can be submitted in a private message to the Three Oaks Facebook page or emailed to threeoaks@crystallake.org.


Linnea Maria


Elijah Wedwick


City Staff

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

Sanitary Sewer Backup Information

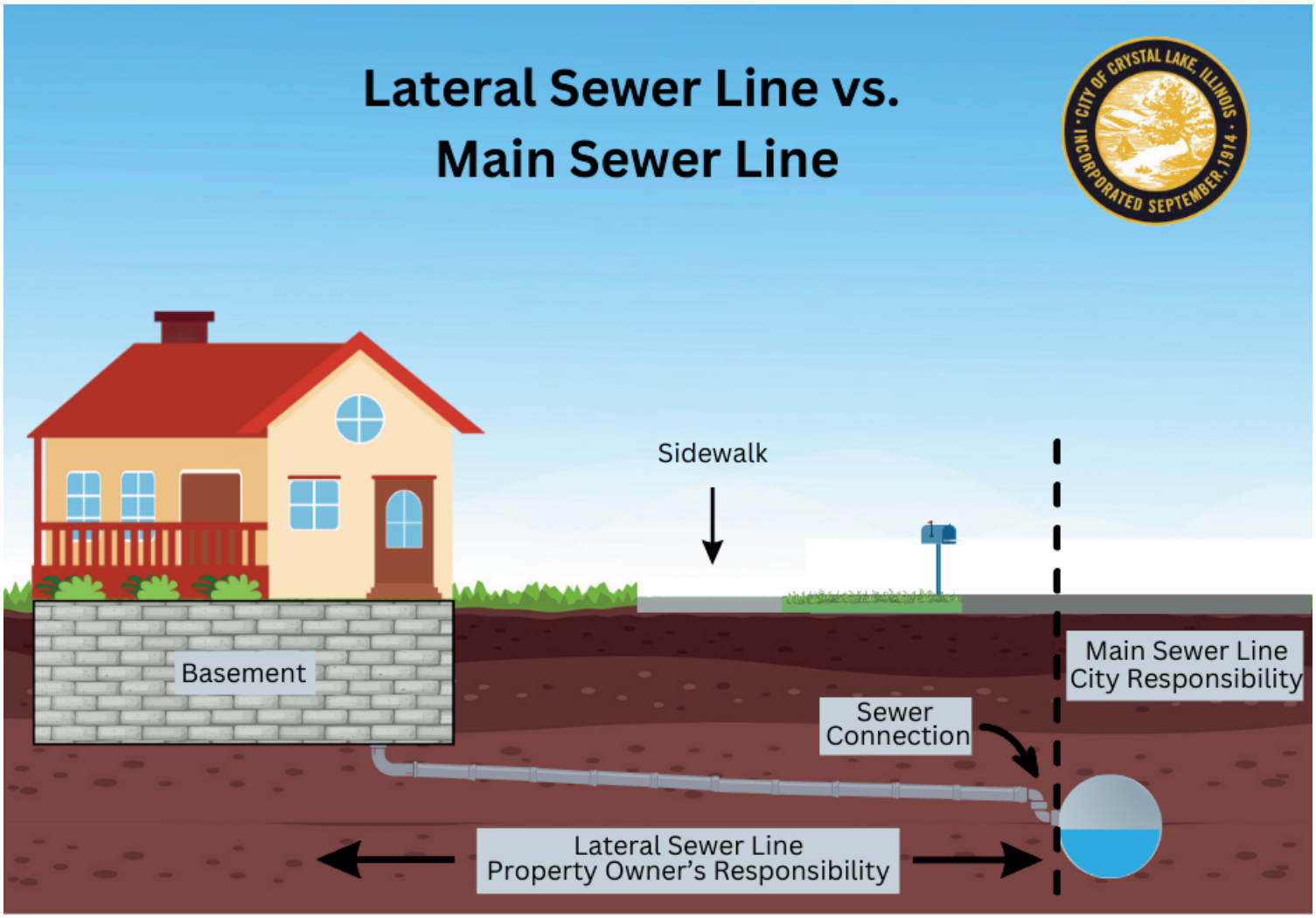
Below are important steps to remember if you experience a sewer backup:

- Stop using water! This contributes to the backup. Do not run any water down your drains until the blockage has been cleared.
- Remove any items near floor drains.
- Before calling a plumber, call the City of Crystal Lake Public Works and Engineering Department at (815) 356-3614 to inspect the City's main sewer line.

Why do I call the City before I call a plumber?
The City maintains the main sewer lines. If the backup is in the City's lines, Public Works crews will resolve the issue. This saves the expense of having a plumber come out for a blockage they cannot clear. If the City's inspection of the main line shows a blockage is not in their portion, residents should call a plumber as the problem could be in the lateral sewer line.

How can sewer backups be prevented?
The City inspects and cleans the sanitary sewer main lines throughout the City. Homeowners can help prevent backups by refraining from flushing diapers, disposable wipes, sanitary napkins, paper towels, rags, or grease down the toilet or drain. Tree roots can also invade the lateral line. Homeowners can hire a plumbing company to do preventative maintenance in removing tree roots.

What portion of the sewer lines are the homeowner's responsibility?
Homeowners are responsible for the lateral line and sewer connection, which is the portion of the sewer line that services your home.



Cease the Grease

During the upcoming holiday season, it is important to remember that fats, oils and grease don't just clog your arteries; they can clog the City's arteries too. Grease can cause significant problems in the City's sewers and increases the potential for failure in the system. When a clog develops in the sanitary sewer, the line is surcharged behind the clog and can result in sewage overflowing into basements, roadways, or other low-lying public areas. These backups can create an environmental and health hazard depending on where the discharge point is located.



Grease is a byproduct from cooking with meat fats, lard, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products.

When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and under the street). Over a period of time, it can build up and block entire portions of your home's plumbing system. Remember, garbage disposals may allow table scraps to fit in the drain, but do not prevent grease from sticking in the sewer. The best way to prevent fats, oils and greases from clogging in your sewer is to never put these materials down the drain. Here are some helpful tips:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal.
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.

The Public Works Department needs your help to cease the grease buildup in the City's sewers. If you have any questions, or would like more information about the hazards of fats, oils and grease in your sewer system, contact the Public Works Department at (815) 356-3614.

Brush Drop-off Site Closes

The Brush Drop-off Site is located at 410 S. Main Street in Crystal Lake. 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 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 brush drop-off dates for 2024:
November 2 & November 16.

NO LEAVES IN THE STREET

As a reminder, local ordinances do not allow leaves to be deposited on City streets. Instead, the City's refuse and recycling provider offers leaf collection services during the fall through December 13.

Place all leaves in biodegradable bags, or plastic containers marked for leaves only for collection. Once bagged, leaves should be placed on the parkway in front of all residents' homes on their regular refuse collection day.

GIRL SCOUTS IN CRYSTAL LAKE

DIANA KENNEY

Although the Girl Scouts of America was founded over 112 years ago, it wasn't until 1941 when Girl Scouts were first organized in Crystal Lake.

The October 30, 1941 Crystal Lake Herald reports, "The hopes of a score of Crystal Lake young women who have reached their tenth birthdays and are in the fifth grade in school, are to be realized Monday, when a meeting will be held at the Congregational church for the purpose of organizing a Girl Scout troop in Crystal Lake." The adult leader of this troop was Rosalind Mathis Gates. Interested girls were instructed to come to the church after school bringing with them the fifty cents for their yearly membership dues. Seventeen girls signed their applications and paid their dues. Crystal Lake's first Girl Scout troop included: Elaine Frey, Carrol Schroeder, Nancy Gates, Phoebe Johnson, Fay Thyness, Barbara Holmes, Lorraine Kriegel, Joan Fanter, Janet Schimpf, Alice Ewing, Betty Pinnow, Betty Jane Nelson, Joanne Gerks, Helen O'Neill, Shirley Purvey, Susan Joyce Simmons and Joyce Ann Greer.



Rosalind Mathis Gates is credited for bringing Girl Scouts to Crystal Lake

Early activities for troop meetings included knot-tying and flag etiquette. One of the first fundraising projects of Crystal Lake's Girl Scout Troop 1 was to (of course!) sell Girl Scout cookies. In March, 1942 it was reported the troop had sold 450 boxes of cookies. The girls had a friendly competition to see who could sell the most boxes. The winners were: Joan Fanter, Phoebe Johnson and Nancy Gates.

By March 1942, enough local girls had shown interest in the program and two new troops were formed. Once again, Rosalind Gates played a major leadership role by organizing the leaders of the three troops and hosting meetings at her home (the former Crystal Lake Academy on McHenry Avenue) to discuss mutual problems and activities. Mrs. Gates remained chairman of this inter-troop council for several years.

While Girl Scout Troop 1 continued to meet at the Congregational church, Girl Scout Troop 2 was sponsored by the Methodist-Episcopal church. Miss Faith Harrington was the adult leader. Girl Scout Troop 3 was sponsored by Bethany Lutheran church.

Nancy Gates Hall, whose mother started it all, was a member of Girl Scout Troop 1. She recalls in the early war years, Girl Scouts knitted scarves for the servicemen, and co-hosted paper and scrap drives with local Boy Scouts. Nancy remembers going to Camp Hickory Hill (Rice Lake) in Edgerton, Wisconsin during the war years, and having to take a 5lb. bag of sugar and meat coupons.

By early 1946, there were seven Girl Scout troops in Crystal Lake. In October 1946, the Gates family moved to Pasadena, California. A front page newspaper article in the Crystal Lake Herald shows a picture of Rosalind Gates with these words of praise, "Although Mrs. Gates makes a humble appraisal of her work, the fact remains that it was she who was the "spark plug" in founding Troop 1 nearly five years ago, and in adding Troops 2 and 3 in 1942 and Senior Service Scouts some months later."

Thank you, Rosalind Mathis Gates, for your leadership in bringing the Girl Scout program (and their delicious cookies) to Crystal Lake.

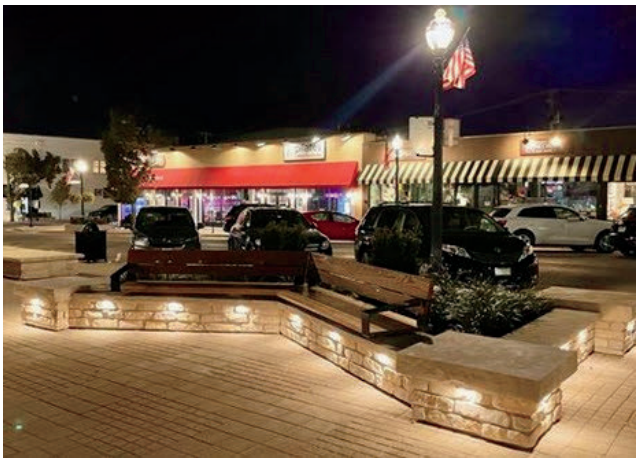
About the Author: Diana Kenney is President of the Crystal Lake Historical Society. To contact Diana, email info@cl-hs.org.

Small Business Saturday

The weather is getting cooler and the holidays are just around the corner! Too often, buying gifts for the holidays becomes more of a chore and a task on your to-do list instead of a pleasurable, festive experience. Bring the fun and charm back to gift-giving by shopping small and local! The day after the Festival of Lights Parade is Small Business Saturday, a special chance to find meaningful gifts for everyone on your list while investing in our community. Whether you are dining out, grabbing take-out, looking for home-goods and clothing for yourself or a gift for others, Crystal Lake is filled with numerous small boutique restaurants and retailers.

Keep an eye out for a gifting guide featuring small businesses at downtowncl.org. Make sure to take advantage of the great deals in stores on Small Business Saturday!







Santa House Visits

Beginning November 30th, the Santa House will open in the Downtown Crystal Lake Brink Street Market. While this yearly event is free, the memories of visiting with Santa are priceless! Bring your camera, and be prepared to smile!

Thursday nights are a little extra special, with the Luminary Nights experience in Downtown Crystal Lake. Stay tuned for the December issue for more information, or visit downtowncl.org/events.

HOURS

Thursdays & Fridays:	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturdays:	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sundays:	Noon - 3:00 p.m.

McHenry County Santa Run for Kids

The 2024 McHenry County Santa Run for Kids will take place on Sunday, December 1, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. The event features a 5k run/walk throughout Crystal Lake and a 1 mile run/walk through the beautiful streets of downtown. For younger participants, a free 50-yard dash kids race will also take place! The infamous Santa suits and t-shirts will be available for the 5k participants only.

Both courses will kick off at the Raue Center for the Arts at 26 N. Williams Street.

Register to participate for the Santa Run for Kids at https://bit.ly/408GaIP. The McHenry County Santa Run for Kids benefits Main Stay Therapeutic Farms, Girls on the Run of Northwest Illinois, CASA of McHenry County, Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County, Kiwanis Club of Crystal Lake and Kids in Need of McHenry County.

The Quarry

Join The Quarry Cable Park for the family friendly Annual Merry Market! Sip and shop from 40+ elevated vendors. Enjoy festive decor, a hot cocoa bar, fun cocktails, lite bites, fire pits, and a new Candy Cane Kiddie Land. The new kid's area will be open only on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and will include Santa, Mrs. Claus, face painting, a jump house and more!

$2.00 Market Tickets (kids under 18 can shop for free)
$5.00 Candy Cane Kiddie Land Tickets - Per child

DATES

Friday, November 8: 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 9: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

CALENDAR | NOVEMBER 2024

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

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

Thursday, November 7
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Monday, November 11
City Offices Closed

Wednesday, November 13
Public Arts Commission Meeting
8:00 A.M.

Thursday, November 14
Youth Commission Meeting
5:00 P.M.

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

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

Thursday, November 28
City Offices Closed

Friday, November 29
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 MANAGER
Eric Helm

Police/Fire/Ambulance Emergency Only
911

All Other Departments (Non-Emergency)
815-459-2020

www.crystallake.org

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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 emailed to comments@crystallake.org.