City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Citizen Police Academy

The Crystal Lake Police Department is excited to announce our next Citizen Police Academy! The academy is a free 11-week program, providing a working knowledge of the Crystal Lake Police Department. The academy consists of a series of classes, discussions, and demonstrations of the Department's operations and divisions. The Department uses this educational program to enhance community safety, increase positive communications, and foster a partnership between the public and the Police Department.

Enrollment is open to all, with priority given to Crystal Lake residents and those who work in Crystal Lake. Participants must be at least 17 years of age, pass a criminal background check, and sign a waiver as well as a hold harmless agreement. To apply, complete the Citizen Police Academy Application and contact Officer Kris Stolzman at kstolzman@crystallake.org or (815) 356-3673 for questions. Applications may be emailed to Officer Kris or dropped off in the Police Department

Continued on Page 2

Adopt a Fire Hydrant Page 4

Curbside Electronics Collection Page 6

McHenry County MCRide Connect Page 8

Continued from Page 1

lobby during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Classes will begin on January 30, 2025 and will proceed once a week, every Thursday until April 10th, 2025. Class times will be from approximately 6:00pm to 9:00pm.

SCAN HERE

In addition, those interested in volunteering with the Crystal Lake Police Department must attend the Citizen Police Academy.

Applications can be picked up in our Police Department lobby located at 100 W. Woodstock Street or by scanning the QR code to the left. Be sure to scroll down the webpage to get to the Citizen Police Academy section!

Polar Plunge

The Polar Plunge to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois is back! An exciting surprise this year is Crystal Lake's Main Beach will be hosting a regional event. This could be your chance to be bold and get cold and take the dive at Main Beach on March 2, 2025.

To register or help support the Crystal Lake Police Department's team, scan the QR code to the right with your phone. Any support is appreciated. We hope you will come out to support the amazing athletes!

2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN POLAR PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS

SCAN ME

Safe Winter Driving Tips

As winter arrives, it's crucial to adjust your driving habits for safety. Ensure your vehicle is winter-ready by checking tire pressure, brakes, and fluid levels regularly. When driving on icy or snowy roads, maintain a safe distance from other vehicles and reduce your speed. Be particularly vigilant for ice patches, especially on bridges and overpasses, as these areas tend to freeze more quickly and can be especially hazardous. In case of a breakdown, stay in your vehicle and call emergency services for assistance.





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!

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Be Safe When You Shovel Snow

Shoveling snow is an ordinary winter household chore that must be done every winter season. Though shoveling snow is a typical task that people perform every year, many do not know that it can be dangerous!

In the United States, shoveling snow is responsible for thousands of injuries and about 100 deaths every year. Why is this?

Most people will shovel snow and be just fine. However, for some, the sudden exertion of shoveling snow after being sedentary for months can put an unexpected strain on the heart. The cold weather itself plays an additional contributing factor in putting people at risk for a heart attack because it can increase a person's heart rate and blood pressure. Blood may also clot more easily and constrict arteries, thus decreasing blood supply.

Check out a few best practices for shoveling snow to help mitigate the chance of an accident or injury:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking
- Take your time shoveling and stretch out before you begin
- Shovel fresh, powdery snow (it's lighter)
- Push the snow instead of lifting it
  - If you lift the snow, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel
- Always lift with your legs, not your back
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion

If you are using a snow blower:

- If the snow blower jams, turn it off
- Keep your hands away from the moving parts
- Be aware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space
- Add fuel outdoors, before starting, and never add fuel when it is running
- Never leave a snow blower unattended when it is running





Sources: National Safety Council

Adopt a Fire Hydrant

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department needs your help this winter. Residents and business owners can help by "Adopting a Hydrant" nearby and clearing the snow away, leaving at least three feet of space around the hydrant. If an emergency involving a fire were to occur, crews need to be able to access the closest fire hydrant. Inaccessible hydrants can lead to a delay in fighting fires. A delay, no matter how small, can have a significant impact when it comes to a fire, as a fire doubles in size every minute.



Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640

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

Youth Commission

The Youth Commission has been brainstorming various concepts, messaging and feedback to benefit the youth of Crystal Lake. The Commissioners have been learning about different aspects of the community with presentations by the Community Development Department and the Crystal Lake Public Library. The Commission is excited to see what comes next in the new year for both Crystal Lake's youth and the community as a whole!



Caution Near Snow Piles

Can you spot the child playing in the snow with enough time to slow your vehicle down? Children hidden by snow banks may not be seen by snow plow drivers or others on the roadway. Please remember that children playing in snow banks in or near the road can put them in unsafe situations. Help keep the roads and the community safe this winter by driving at slower speeds when it snows and remaining vigilant around snow banks.

Additionally, remind your children not to play on or near snow piles by the roadway. It's safest for everyone!



How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

When temperatures drop below freezing, water pipes and water meters exposed to cold air may freeze. Below are some helpful suggestions to make sure your water supply stays flowing this winter.

Provide Warmth:

- Check for proper temperatures in all areas where water pipes are located and eliminate cold air from blowing on water pipes.
- If a sink is located against an exterior wall, open the cabinet doors.
- Open the door to rooms, closets, and cabinets where water pipes are located to allow air circulation.

Use Your Water Supply:

- Allow a small trickle of cold water to run through your faucets.
- Make sure your drains remain clear to prevent overflow or flooding.

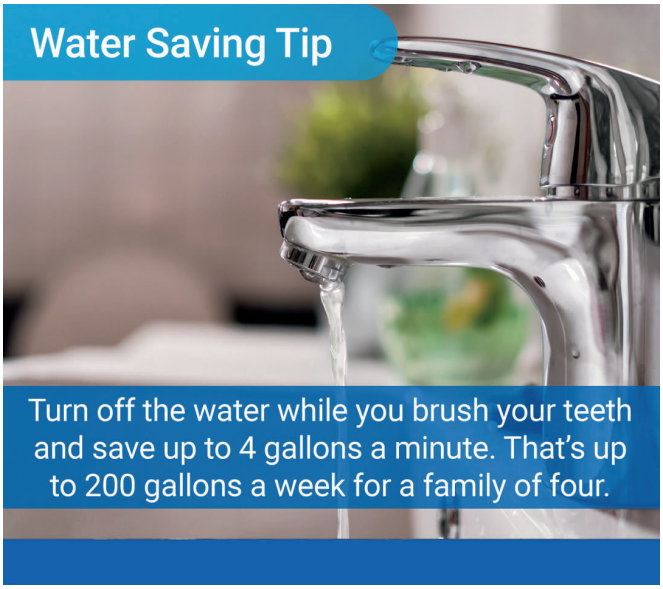
If in spite of best efforts you find yourself with frozen pipes this winter, please contact a plumber.



Water - Use it Wisely Campaign

The Water - Use it Wisely Campaign has been ongoing since 1999. It offers several helpful tips on how to save water in your everyday routine. Below are some simple ideas to consider, or visit https://wateruseitwisely.com/ to read more!





Curbside Electronics Collection Event: March 3 - 7

LRS will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of March 3 - 7, 2025. 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 September 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 Toys	Smoke and Fire Detectors
Coffee Makers	Packaging Materials
Computer Disks	Microwaves
Dishwashers	Water Softeners

The next electronics collection event will take place in September.

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Pavilion Rental Reservations

The City is now accepting pavilion reservations for 2025! Guests can book their rental through the online portal at https://bit.ly/41kllFa which can be found on the City's website.

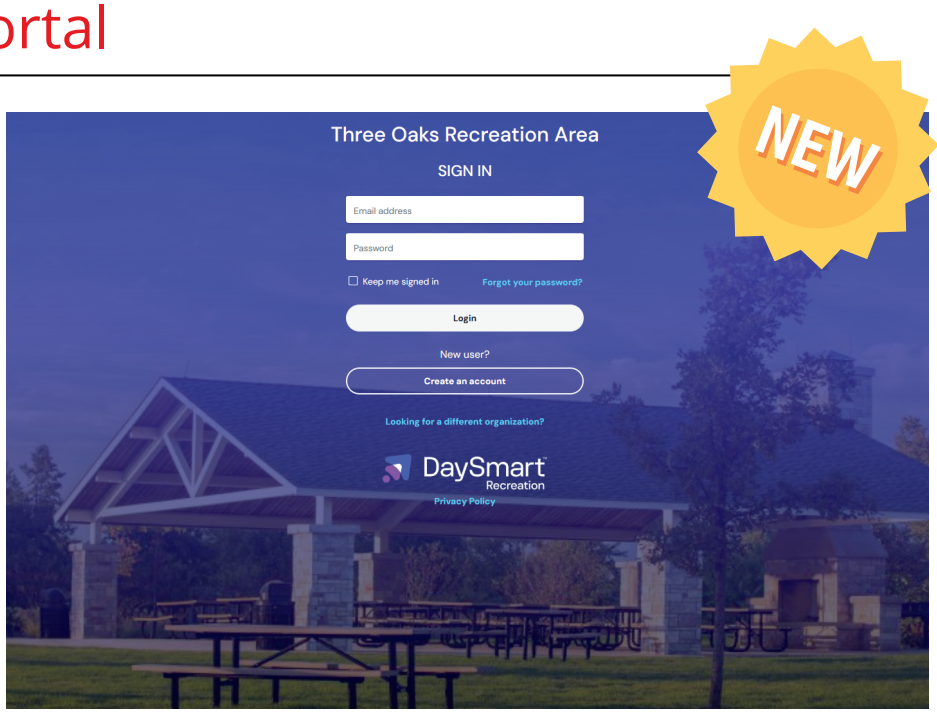
All pavilion details and related FAQ forms are available on our website under the Pavilion Rentals tab. Should you have any questions, please contact City staff at (815) 459-2020 ext. 4288.

New Pavilion Rental Portal

While Three Oaks has had an online portal to reserve pavilions for quite some time now, we are excited to announce a new and improved portal! If you previously held an account from reserving a pavilion in prior years, you will need to create a new account for 2025.

New this year is the ability to pay for your pavilion as you book online to complete your rental all at once. You will no longer need to wait for a request to be approved in order to make your payment.

Visit our website for additional information on creating an account, booking your rental, FAQs and pavilion details.



Employment

Applications are being accepted to join us this 2025 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

McHenry County MCRide Connect

McHenry County has introduced a new rider program called MCRide Connect. MCRide Connect is a new on-demand, user-side subsidy program using transportation network companies like Uber and UZURV, to provide an affordable transportation option for eligible residents in McHenry County. It is only available for McHenry County residents who have an RTA Reduced Fare, Ride Free or ADA Paratransit Permit Card.

Who is eligible to enroll in MCRide Connect?
Riders are eligible to enroll in MCRide Connect if:

- They have an RTA Reduced Fare or Ride Free Permit Card
- They have an account with Uber or UZURV, with a valid credit card attached
- They are a McHenry County resident

How does MCRide Connect work?
Eligible riders enrolled in MCRide Connect will pay the first $4.00 of the cost of a trip taken with Uber or UZURV so long as the origin or destination of the trip is within McHenry County. McHenry County will subsidize the cost of the trip after the first $4.00 and not exceeding $20.00 (maximum $16.00 County Subsidy). Eligible riders will also be responsible for paying:

- Any portion of the trip that exceeds $20.00
- Any rideshare provider surcharge applicable to the trip (i.e. advance booking surcharge)
- And any driver tip

McHenry County will subsidize no more than eight trips per day for each eligible rider enrolled in MCRide Connect.

Within two weeks, the subsidy will be available in the enrollee's rideshare provider account to apply to the cost of a trip at the time of booking. You must have an Uber account at the time of enrollment.

For more information regarding MCRide Connect or other rider programs, please visit https://www.mchenrycountyil.gov/departments/transportation/transit-services.

Other Ways to Ride

MCRide Dial-A-Ride

- MCRide is a curb-to-curb, demand-response public transit service available to riders throughout the entire County.
- As a dial-a-ride program, MCRide service is a coordinated countywide paratransit service, and vehicles do not travel in a fixed route each day. Riders schedule their trips in advance and the vehicle provides curb-to-curb service from the rider's desired pick-up and drop-off destinations.
- MCRide has a distance-based fare structure.
- Buses are wheelchair accessible

Pace Fixed Route

- Entirely accessible option for individuals with disabilities
- A less expensive way for senior citizens and people with disabilities to get around
- Requires no advance booking
- Equipped with ramps, accessible seating and bus announcements specifically for those with auditory or visual disabilities

THE END OF CRYSTAL LAKE'S ICE AGE

DIANA KENNEY

Amos Page ran the first commercial ice business here called the Crystal Lake Ice Company. Ice was harvested from the frozen waters of our lake and shipped to Chicago and other locations. To ship the ice, Page constructed a railroad track ca1856 from the lake to the downtown train depot (along today's Dole Avenue). The route was commonly known as "Ice Track Road".

From the mid-1800s to early-1900s, ice harvesting from the crystal clear waters of our lake was a major industry. C.S. Dole, Knickerbocker Ice and Consumers Ice all had big operations. However, in 1914, the last of the large commercial ice houses on the south shore of the lake burned down. With the advent of refrigeration and ice making machines, the large ice companies abandoned all ice harvesting operations on Crystal Lake.

Although the big companies discontinued operation, there were several local men who continued with the tradition. Motorized vehicles replaced the horse power of earlier days and these small independent operators replaced the big companies.

In 1919, John, Louis and Henry Pfeiffer built a two-room icehouse reported to be 100 feet long by 50 feet wide by 20 feet high. The icehouse was located on today's Lake Street, just east of McHenry Avenue. The 2,000-ton capacity icehouse was a frame structure with sawdust-packed insulated walls to keep the ice frozen through the year.

The three Pfeiffer brothers dissolved their partnership the next year, and John went into business with Herman Meier. Like Amos Page's company, their operation was also known as the Crystal Lake Ice Company. The company changed hands several times in the late 1920s before being bought by the much larger Jefferson Ice Company.

In 1922, another Pfeiffer, Christ Pfeiffer, Jr., had also jumped into the ice business, building his own icehouse off Virginia Street, behind where the Fifth Third Bank is located today. Like his brothers, Christ Pfeiffer, Jr. sold out to Jefferson Ice Company in the early 1930s. Jefferson Ice Co. was manufacturing ice and no longer cutting ice from the lake. Their acquisition of the Pfeiffer ice companies gave them a customer base for deliveries of their manufactured ice.

Despite the smaller independent ice companies being swallowed up by Jefferson Ice Company, two local men, A.E. Schwartz and Fred Eibisch decided to give one last stab at establishing an independent ice company in Crystal Lake. Their company, known as City Ice Co. was started in 1931 and stayed in operation until the early 1940s. By then, a shortage of workers and the modernization of home freezers shut the business down.



Square wooden handle of small ice pick from City Ice Co.

Earlier this year, the city's Dole Avenue reconstruction project unearthed a few pieces of the early train tracks put in by Amos Page, Charles Dole and the other ice companies. These train track remnants serve as a reminder to the once important industry that kept countless people employed during the cold winter months in Crystal Lake's ice age.



Railroad tracks discovered during the Dole Avenue reconstruction project. Photo by Bob Wyman

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

Slidewalk Sales in Downtown

RUN, SLIDE, SKATE or SKI into Downtown Crystal Lake's Slidewalk Sales! Join us at your favorite shops on January 23 - 25, 2025.

Don't let the winter weather stop you from enjoying fabulous bargains at many of your favorite Downtown Crystal Lake retailers.

Electronic Utility Bill

DID YOU KNOW you can receive your water and sewer utility bill electronically? Save yourself the wait for your City utility bill and sign up for paperless billing today. It also helps with going green! There is no charge for this service. Simply call, 815-459-2020 and a City staff member will be happy to assist you.

Clearly CRYSTAL LAKE

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

New Year, New Goals!

Crystal Lake has a wide variety of gyms and studios to help you meet your New Year's Resolution! From workout facilities to yoga or pilates, there's something for everyone.

Workout Facilities

Orange Theory - 6232 Northwest Highway

EDGE Fitness - 800 Cog Circle

Planet Fitness - 5320 Northwest Highway

Sage YMCA - 701 Manor Road

Forge Fitness- 141 N. Main Street

Crossfit Crystal Lake - 110 W. Woodstock Street

Iron Colosseum - 835 S. Virginia Road, Unit J

North Wall Rock Climbing Gym - 824 S. Main Street, Suite 106

Freedom Fitness - 60 E. Terra Cotta Avenue

CrossFit 104 - 93 Berkshire Drive

I Got This Round Kickboxing - 40 W. Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite 40A

Yoga

Nurtured Soul Studios - 650 E. Terra Cotta Avenue, Suite 100

Happy Hour Yoga - 1500 Carlemont Drive, Suite B

Be Moved Yoga & Wellness - 407 E. Terra Cotta Avenue

Pilates

Studio Pilates - 46 Brink Street

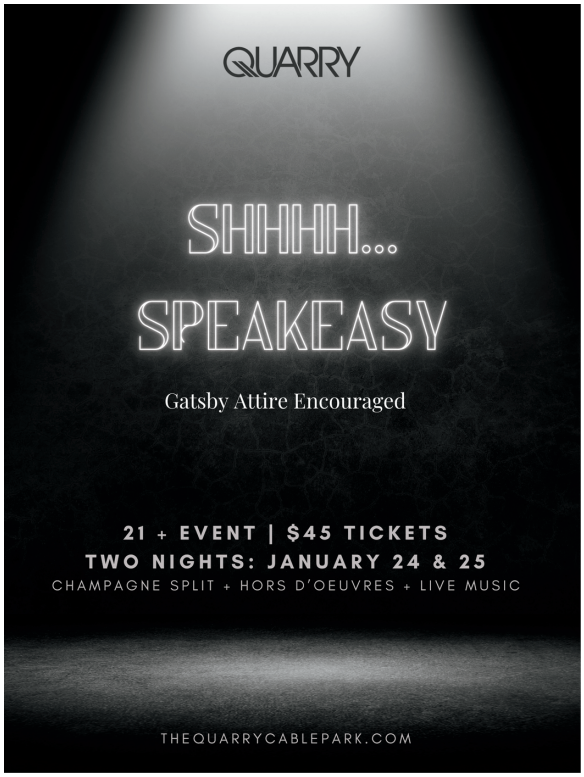
416 Pilates - 58 N. Williams Street





The Quarry

Great events are coming up! Check out the Quarry's Speakeasy event on January 24 and 25. Then, stop by for a Galentine's event on February 7 and 8. Both events are 21+ for attendees. For more information, visit: https://thequarrycablepark.com/upcoming-events/.





CALENDAR | JANUARY 2025

Wednesday, January 1
City Offices Closed

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

Wednesday, January 8
Public Arts Commission
8:00 A.M.

Thursday, January 9
Youth Commission Meeting
4:00 P.M.

Tuesday, January 21
City Council 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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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.