City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER









Mayor's Annual State of the Community Video

The City of Crystal Lake would like to present the Mayor's Annual State of the Community video which highlights accomplishments from the last year and provides an overview of projects and developments planned for 2025. The video debuts at the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce's State of the Community on February 14th and can be found on the City's website following the event.

The video features businesses, the City, School Districts 47 and 155, the Crystal Lake Park District, and McHenry County College. To view the video, please use the following link from the City's website:

https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/city-council/state-of-the-community-video

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FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Be Aware of Your Surroundings

Think about the various public places you frequent in your life. Did you go to work, school, the grocery store, or your favorite restaurant? If you did, did you take a moment to assess your surroundings with fire safety in mind?

Regardless of the type of public places you are visiting, it is always good to take a brief moment to evaluate your surroundings. Before entering a public place ask yourself these questions:

- Does the building appear to be in a condition that makes you feel comfortable?
- Is the main entrance wide and do the doors open outward to allow an easy exit?
- Is the outside area clear of materials stored against the building or blocking exits?

From there, it can be beneficial to establish a quick communication plan and meeting place with the people you are visiting the public place with. If an emergency does occur, then a plan is already established in case you are all separated, and makes it easier to account for one another quickly.

Once you enter the premises, take note of the available exit routes and make sure aisles are wide enough and obstructions are not prevalent throughout the building. Exits should also not be blocked or chained. Finally, quickly ask yourself:

- Does the building appear to be overcrowded?
- Are there fire sources such as candles burning, cigarettes or cigars burning, pyrotechnics, or other heat sources that may make you feel unsafe?
- Are there safety systems in place such as alternative exits, sprinklers, and smoke alarms?











Remember!

You should react immediately during an emergency. If a smoke alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or any other unusual disturbance, exit the building in an orderly manner. Once you have escaped from harm, stay away. DO NOT go back in for anything! Leave rescue operations to trained firefighters and rescue personnel.

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

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 2nd.

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!

IRS Scam Season

With tax season in full swing, scammers are on the prowl. The IRS scam season is upon us, and it's crucial to stay vigilant. Here are some tips to protect yourself.

- **Avoid Immediate Payments:** The IRS will never demand immediate payment or threaten legal action over the phone. If you receive such a call, hang up.
- **Secure Personal Information:** Guard your personal and financial information. Don't share sensitive details with unknown individuals or respond to suspicious requests.
- **Check for Official Notices:** Legitimate IRS communications often come through traditional mail. If in doubt, verify the authenticity of any notice directly with the IRS.

Remember, awareness is your best defense. Stay informed, and report any suspicious activity.

Super Bowl

The Super Bowl is one of the biggest celebrations of the year, but it's important to plan ahead to ensure everyone gets home safely. Impaired driving puts lives at risk, and the Crystal Lake Police Department is committed to keeping the roads safe. This year, the Super Bowl is on Sunday, February 9th.

Here are a few tips for a safe and enjoyable game day:

- Designate a Driver: If you're drinking, make sure to have a sober driver lined up or use a rideshare service.
- Watch for Pedestrians: Be cautious especially near bars or party venues where pedestrians may be crossing the street unexpectedly.
- Report Impaired Drivers: If you see someone driving dangerously, call 911 and provide as much detail as possible about the vehicle and location.

Remember, buzzed driving is drunk driving. Let's work together to make sure everyone gets home safely. Enjoy the game and stay safe!

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!

Public Arts Commission

Save the date and join the Public Arts Commission on Thursday, February 27 at Crystal Lake Brewing from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. The Commission is excited to engage with the community to discuss public art opportunities and hear your ideas!

For more information about the Public Arts Commission, visit the City of Crystal Lake's website at https://bit.ly/4jf6KHh.



Have a Heart Food Drive

Make a meaningful impact this February by participating in the Downtown Crystal Lake Food Drive! From February 10-17, drop off canned goods and monetary donations at participating businesses throughout Downtown. The collected items will be distributed to those in need by the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. For more details, including a list of participating businesses and the most requested canned goods, visit downtowncl.org/events/have-a-heart.



Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee provides short-term, long-term, and cost-effective goals for the City of Crystal Lake to become more sustainable. The Sustainability Committee is looking for a dedicated individual who is passionate about spreading awareness on environmental issues within the community.

If you are interested in joining this committee, please email Assistant to the City Manager, Ryan Oates at roates@crystallake.org to obtain an application.

The Sustainability Committee meets on the third Wednesday each month at 6:00 p.m. To learn more about the committee, please visit the City's website at https://bit.ly/3HA97CU.

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Employment

Applications are being accepted to join us this 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!

Guest Photo Submissions

With permission from our park guests, photos submitted to Three Oaks will have the opportunity to have their pictures featured in the City's Newsletter. Proper photo credits will be given. Pictures can be submitted to threeoaks@crystallake.org.

February 2024



Photo By: Brent Beckwith

October 2024

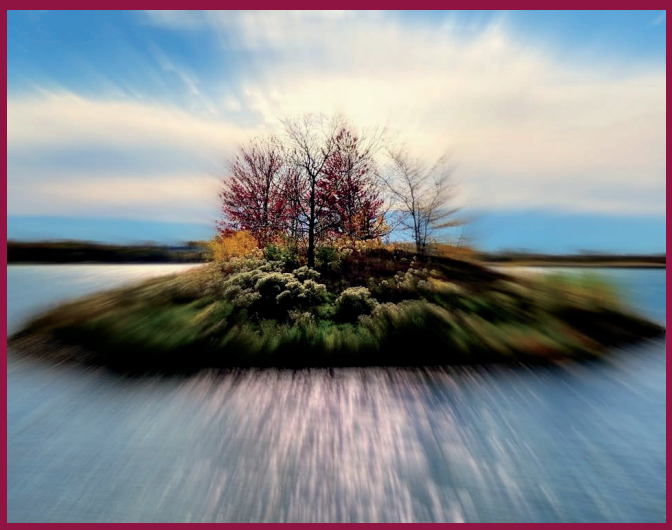


Photo By: Laura Harrison

April 2024



Photo By: Linnea Maria

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

THE SWEETEST GIFT

DIANA KENNEY

Receiving a box of candy for your birthday is indeed a sweet gift. But Leone "Tone" Raue's candy birthday present is sweeter yet. The story of Leone's sweet birthday surprise starts way back in the 1890s.

Born in 1875, Sydney Dole was the youngest child of Charles and Julia Dole. When he was about 20 years of age, Sydney found himself to be a little short of cash, and so he decided that in order to raise some money, he would pawn one of his stickpins. A stickpin is a long straight pin with a jeweled or ornamented head. It is used to hold an ascot or necktie in place. Sydney took his fire opal and diamond stickpin to Ben Raue's Jewelry/Hardware Store on Williams Street. The pawn transaction was complete. Sydney Dole left with some additional cash in his pocket. Ben Raue retained the stickpin in his store.

The stickpin remained unclaimed at the Raue Store for many years. Ben's daughter Leone often admired the stickpin and repeatedly asked her father if she may have it. Ben refused, keeping the stickpin on display at the store.

Leone Raue was born July 31, 1898. She was the third child born of Ben and Dora Brown Raue. A younger sister, Lucile, would later complete the family. Leone attended Crystal Lake's public schools, graduating from high school in 1916. Both the 1920 and 1930 censuses indicate Leone as single, worked as a stenographer and lived at her parents' house on Crystal Lake Avenue. Leone was an active member of the Monday Crystal Lake Bridge Club.

As a birthday gift one year, Leone received a box of candy from her father. Having been accustomed to more expensive, elaborate gifts, Leone was disappointed with her father's meager gift. She was so disappointed that the box of candy remained unopened for several days. Eventually she broke down and opened the candy box. To her surprise, inside the box her father had placed a beautiful ring which he had fashioned from Sydney Dole's original fire opal and diamond stickpin. Leone proudly wore the ring for the rest of her life.



Leone's fire opal and diamond ring

After Leone's death, the ring passed to her sister, Lucile Raue, the only remaining child of Ben Raue. None of Ben's four children had married, so there were no other descendants to inherit the Raue family treasures. Lucile made a provision in her last will and testament to bequeath the ring to her friend, Linda Kennedy of Crystal Lake. Linda had a part-time catering business and had helped the Raue sisters host many Bridge parties – a favorite pastime at the Raue House.

Upon learning the story of how Sydney Dole's stickpin became Leone Raue's ring, Linda decided to donate the ring to the Crystal Lake Historical Society. When on display, the ring is placed at the center of a candy box, and the story of the sweetest gift is shared for all to see.



Raue sisters: Lucile, Leone, and Ethel ca. 1975

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

Clearly
CRYSTAL LAKE

New Businesses Coming to Crystal Lake in 2025

Cilantro Taco Grill - 1145 South Route 31, Unit H

Michaels - 5540 Northwest Highway

Daiso - 5548 Northwest Highway

Lake Roots - 475 West Virginia Street

Starbucks - 1341 Randall Road, Unit A

Hand And Stone Massage And Facial Spa - 6160 Northwest Highway, Unit 808

The Quarry

Several great events are coming up! Stop by The Quarry Cable Park for a Galentine's event on February 7 and 8. This event is 21+ for attendees. Then, celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 15 with the whole family! For more information about upcoming events or to host your own celebration, visit: https://thequarrycablepark.com/upcoming-events/.



CALENDAR | FEBRUARY 2025

Tuesday, February 4
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 5
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Thursday, February 6
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Thursday, February 13
Youth Commission Meeting
4:00 P.M.

Monday, February 17
City Offices Closed

Tuesday, February 18
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 19
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 19
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, February 25
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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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.