City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Lake Loop Trail Project

The City is excited to share that the Lake Loop Trail Project is underway. The lake loop trail will be approximately 3.4 miles long and will allow guests to walk around the entire lake. The project kicked off in January 2025 and is anticipated to be complete in 2026.

Updates and progress will be shared on the City website at https://bit.ly/4gBLgBW or you can scan the QR code to the right. This will include pictures and details of when certain portions of the trail will be accessible to the public as Three Oaks opens for the 2025 season.

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FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Poison Prevention Week

Poison Prevention Week is March 16 - 22 and the goal is to raise awareness around poison prevention and safety. As part of this initiative, we encourage everyone to be vigilant and check that their homes have working carbon monoxide alarms. Carbon monoxide poisonings are most prevalent during the colder months of the year. Carbon monoxide is a colorless and odorless gas that is often referred to as 'The Silent Killer'. Ensure your home has a carbon monoxide alarm so this invisible threat does not go undetected!

Poison Help Line 1-800-222-1222



Car Fire Safety

While most car crashes do not result in a fire, a severe car crash does have the potential to cause a car fire. The most common causes for a car to catch fire are due to mechanical or electrical issues.

Keep in mind that most car fluids are flammable. It only takes an electrical spark plus a little leaking fluid to start a car fire. Do not ignore the warning signs that may be present in your car! Check for cracked or loose wiring or electrical problems, including a fuse that blows more than once. Pay attention to any oil or fluid leaks, rapid fuel or fluid level changes, or changes in engine temperature.

If your car is on fire, you should pull over immediately. Make sure that you pull over in a safe area. If possible, use your signal while you are making your way to a safe stopping location.

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A breakdown lane or a rest stop are good examples of a safe area you could look for to make your stop.

Once you have pulled into your safe location, turn the engine off and get everyone out of the car. Have everyone move at least 100 feet (two semi-trailers long) from the burning car and away from traffic. Call 9-1-1 and never return to the burning car for anything!

Sources: NFPA.org & poisoncenters.org

To help prevent a car fire:



Bring your car to be serviced regularly by a professionally trained mechanic. If you spot leaks, your car is not running properly, indicating you should get your car checked. Remember, a car that is properly maintained is less likely to have a fire incident.



If you find yourself needing to transport gasoline, transport only a small amount in a certified gas can that is sealed. Open a window in your car for ventilation.



Do not transport gas cans or propane cylinders in your passenger compartment.



Never park a car where flammables, such as grass, are touching the catalytic converter.



Drive safely and responsibly to avoid an accident.

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640

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

Put Litter in its Place

Help keep the City of Crystal Lake clean by doing your part in reducing the amount of litter. The City is continuing to expand its efforts in litter reduction and we need your help! Every resident plays an important part in keeping Crystal Lake clean.

Below are some tips to prevent litter:

- Properly dispose of your trash in your own trash can or in one of the trash cans located around the City.
- Do not throw trash out of your car window. Keep a litterbag in your car and dispose of your trash properly once you reach your destination.
- Keep your yard clean and free of debris that can blow in the street or storm drains.
- When you visit a park in Crystal Lake, make sure you take out what you bring in or dispose of it in the proper trash receptacle.
- Make sure your trash and recycling bins are properly secured.
- Recycle to reduce the amount of litter you throw away.
- Encourage your company or friends and family to participate in an Adopt-A-Highway program through the City.

The City is looking for Adopt-A-Highway participants to clean up areas such as North Shore Drive, Pingree Road, Ackman Road, and more. If this interests you, please visit our website at https://bit.ly/4aT8l1H.

For more information about the City's litter initiative, please visit the City's Sustainability Committee page at https://bit.ly/3Qf9Q0t.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Low-Speed Electric Scooters

An Illinois law regulating low-speed electric scooters went into effect on August 9, 2024. This law now allows municipalities, park districts, conservation districts, and the Illinois Department of National Resources to regulate the operation of low-speed electric scooters, if they choose to do so. While the law provides guidelines for operating these scooters throughout the state, it is important to note that the City of Crystal Lake does not authorize the use of low-speed electric scooters at this time.



St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

Don't push your luck this St. Patrick's Day, designate a sober driver!

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, the Crystal Lake Police Department is reminding motorists to plan ahead for a sober ride home to keep celebrations from turning deadly. In addition to patrolling for alcohol and drug-impaired drivers, the Crystal Lake Police Department will be stepping up seat belt enforcement, particularly at night when seat belt usage rates are lowest. Speed limits and distracted driving laws will also be strictly enforced. Designating a sober driver and not letting friends drive impaired are two simple steps to help avoid a tragic crash or an arrest for driving under the influence.

Coffee With the Chief

Join the Crystal Lake Police Department for Coffee with the Chief. On March 11, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the Police Department will be hosting a school safety informational open discussion at the Crystal Lake Police Department, located at 100 W. Woodstock Street.

The format will be a Q&A session designed to encourage open communication and collaboration regarding school safety. Staff members of School Districts 155 and 47, including their Directors of School Safety, will join the conversation to provide valuable insights and answer your questions.

Reserve your seat by emailing Officer Kris at kstolzman@crystallake.org or by calling her at 815-356-3673. Space is limited! We look forward to seeing you there!

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!

Youth Commission

The Crystal Lake Youth Commission has published an informational brochure which can be found at schools and other businesses around town to help young community members share their thoughts and concerns to the seven members that make up this commission.

Within the brochure, the commission offers safe winter driving tips such as keeping a safe distance, removing snow and ice from your vehicle before driving, packing an emergency kit, and checking your oil on a regular basis. These helpful tips can also be seen to the right.

The Youth Commission's goal is to help teens have a voice within the community and to show that they can make a difference. The Commission has learned about other taxing bodies within the City and what they offer to residents. The Commission then helps to spread that knowledge to other teens in the area though school and social media outlets.

For more information about the Youth Commission and to view the brochure, visit: https://bit.ly/4hJRalN





THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Employment

The Three Oaks Recreation Area is currently hiring Lifeguards and Attendants for the 2025 season.

Lifeguards
Lifeguards must obtain Red Cross certification prior to the beginning of the season. However, potential applicants can apply before receiving the certification.

Attendants
This is a seasonal position where applicants are responsible for assisting patrons at the park through duties related to the entrances at the parking gate and swim beach, supporting the scuba zone operations and all boat rental aspects in the marina.

Applicants must be at least 16 years of age at the time of hire. For all position details, visit the City of Crystal Lake Human Resources Employment page.

Opening Dates

Marina
The Marina will tentatively open for the season on Saturday, April 19, 2025.

- The Marina will be open on weekends only (Saturday and Sunday) in April.
- Only row boats will be available in April due to the cold weather. Our entire fleet of boats will be available at the Marina in May.

Swim Beach
The Swim Beach will tentatively open for the season on Saturday, May 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Scuba Zone
The Scuba Zone will tentatively open in May, weather permitting.

Open Water Swim
Open Water Swim (OWS) is described as distance swimming beyond the boundaries of the beach's buoy markers only on select dates. OWS will be held on Thursdays and Saturdays in June and July. There will be no OWS on July 3rd or 5th due to the holiday.

Guest Photo Submissions

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

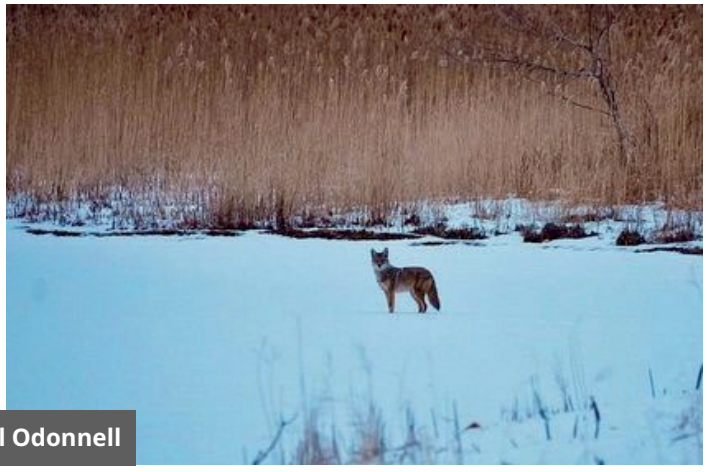


Photo By: Michael Odonnell

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

AN IRISHMAN AND HIS LUCKY CABIN

DIANA KENNEY

There's a common phrase about the "Luck of the Irish", but have you heard about Crystal Lake's very own Irishman and his lucky cabin?

Luke Gannon was born ca. 1820 in County Sligo, Ireland. As a teenager, Luke left Ireland and came to America aboard a sailing vessel. The journey took about six weeks to cross the ocean. After arriving in New York State, he worked for a short while to help complete the construction of the Erie Canal. From there, he traveled to Illinois and was employed on the construction of the Illinois and Michigan canal which connected the Chicago River to the Illinois River, providing a direct water link between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River.

About 1838 Luke married Margaret Fallon, who was also from County Sligo, Ireland. The couple would have eight children: John (1840), Katharine (1846), Mary (1847), James (1848), Peter (1850), Michael (1853), Thomas (1854) and Margaret (1857). The 1840 census shows the couple and their first child living near Lockport, Will County, Illinois.

By 1845, Luke started making land purchases in McHenry County, finally setting down stakes in Section 14 of Grafton Township, near the intersection of today's Ackman Road and Huntley Road. In 1847, he built a simple 16 x 18-foot cabin with solid oak timbers to protect his family from the harsh weather of northern Illinois. The cabin would be used as a home by the Gannon family for only a few years until a regular house could be built. Gannon continued to use the cabin as a porch/annex to his house and as a summer kitchen. An 1850 property tax assessment indicates Luke Gannon owned seven cows, two hogs and one wagon. The cabin was eventually moved down by the barn and used for animals. The cabin served as a chicken house, calf barn, pig barn and lamb pen.

Just how many of Luke and Margaret Gannon's children were born in the cabin is unknown. We do know that son James (1848) was born in the cabin. It was James Gannon who took over the 160-acre farm after his father's death in 1869. The 1922 McHenry County History book indicates James devoted the property to general farming and dairying, with a herd of thirty-five cows. James and his wife Margaret Malone Gannon had nine children, including son Edward who eventually took over the farm.

By 1964, Edward Gannon, grandson of Luke, began to make plans to parcel off the family farm. Remarkably, the original 1847 Gannon cabin was still standing and in fairly good shape! Edward offered to donate the cabin to the McHenry County Historical Society if they would move it off the site. The cabin donation was completed in 1966.

Local school children donated $450 toward the cost of moving and seventeen local businesses contributed labor and materials. The cabin was moved to property adjacent to the McHenry County Fairgrounds. By 1967, its restoration was complete. A dedication ceremony was held in August 1967, marking the completion of the Society's first restoration project.

In 1980, the Gannon Cabin was moved to its current (and hopefully permanent) home in front of the McHenry County Historical Society Museum in Union. Expert advice and volunteer labor was used to once again restore the cabin. Maintenance and restoration has been ongoing to keep the cabin in good shape.

And if that lucky cabin hadn't survived enough with several moves and restorations, it endured one more blow when a 10-foot tall truck rolled back into the log cabin and knocked it off its foundation in 2002! Once again, the cabin survived.

Stop by sometime to see this lucky cabin. Or maybe we're the lucky ones to still have this amazing piece of local history preserved and on display.



Gannon Log Cabin - Today

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

Spring 2025 Full System Hydrant Flushing Schedule

Section 1 – March 24 – March 28
North of IL Route 176 and East of US Route 14, East of Terra Cotta Road and North of Crystal Lake Avenue

Section 2 - March 31 – April 4
South of IL Route 176 to US Route 14, East of Main Street to IL Route 31 (south of Crystal Lake Avenue), East of Pingree Road and South of US Route 14 to Walmart

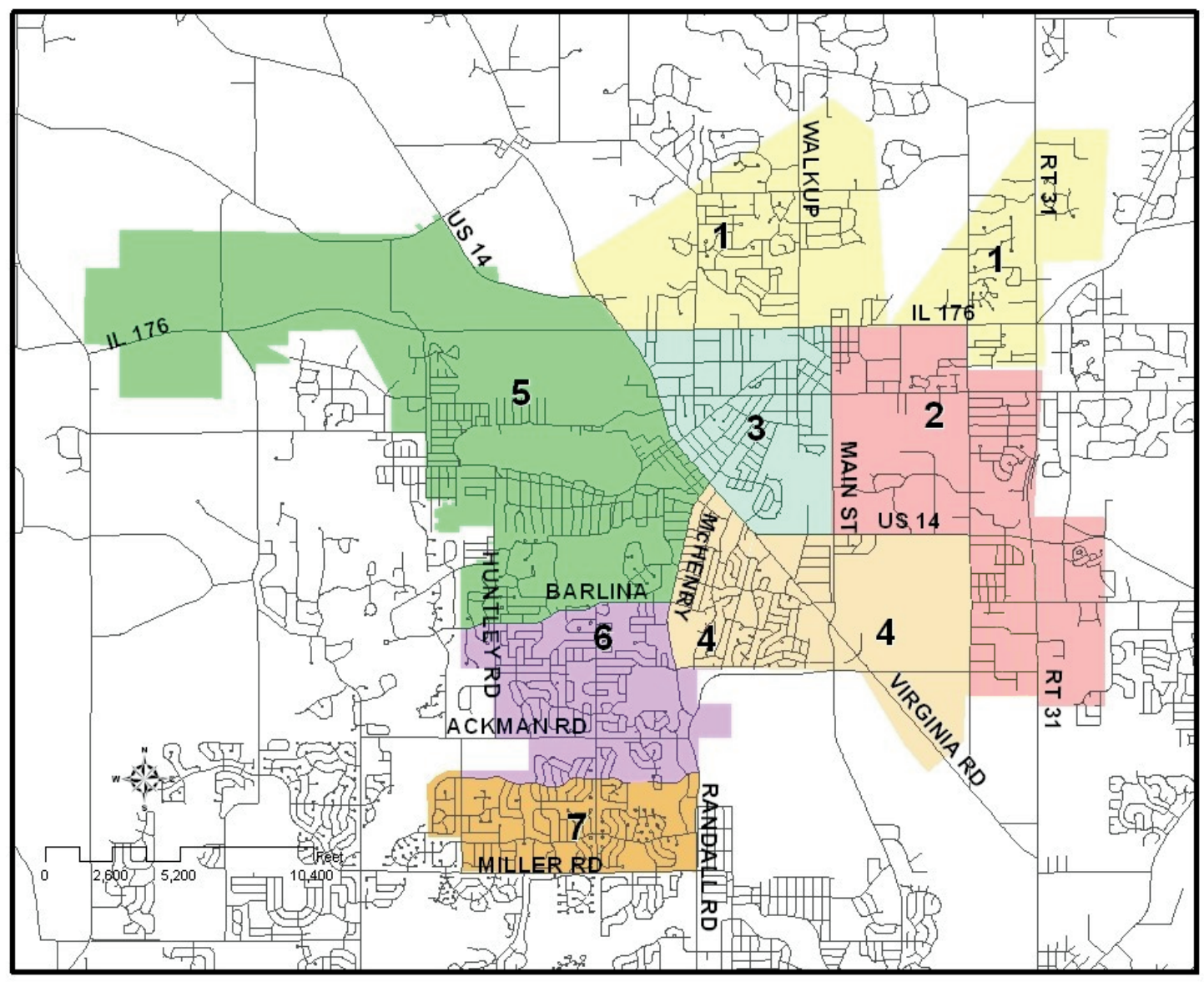
Section 3 - April 7 – April 11
South of IL Route 176 to US Route 14, East of US Route 14 to Main Street

Section 4 – April 14 – April 18
South of US Route 14, East of McHenry Avenue to West of Pingree Road

Section 5 – April 21 – April 25
West of US Route 14 and McHenry Avenue, North of Barlina Road

Section 6 – April 28 – May 2
South of Barlina Road to Alexandra Boulevard, West of McHenry Avenue and West of Randall Road

Section 7 – May 5 – May 9
South of Alexandra Boulevard to Miller Road, West of Randall Road



Blue Star Banner Program

In February 2017, the City of Crystal Lake and the Chamber of Commerce adopted the Blue Star Banner Program to honor active members of the military who are from Crystal Lake as well as City government employees who actively serve our nation. Personalized 6′ X 3′ banners are displayed along a section of Route 14 known as Heroes Row to express gratitude towards military members for their selfless and honorable service to our country. To date, the program has honored 149 local heroes.

The program is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization which accepts banner nomination forms from Crystal Lake families with active service members. Nominations may be placed by completing a form at https://www.bluestarcl.com/banner-nominations/.

Once approved, the banners displaying the honoree's name, rank, and branch of service are hung along Heroes Row. After a period of months, the banners are taken down and given at no cost to the families of the honorees in a formal presentation ceremony led by Donna McAnally, the program's president, and Crystal Lake Mayor Haig Haleblian. The recognition of these service members is a way of thanking them for their sacrifice and brings public awareness to the military heroes of Crystal Lake.

Donations and sponsorships from families as well as businesses are welcomed by the program. Sponsorship of The Blue Star Banner Program is available to those who wish to recognize active military members who live in Crystal Lake or are employed within their business. As a sponsor, you are making an important contribution to ensuring active military men and women are recognized for making their sacrifice in protecting our country. Sponsorship forms outline the four levels of sponsorship, each with its own set of benefits. Program benefits may include an announcement via social media, the Blue Star Banner website, events at which the Blue Star Banner Program will appear, and public relations presentations. Sponsorship forms are available at https://www.bluestarcl.com/sponsorship/.

Another goal of the program is to help bridge the gap between the civilian and military community. The Blue Start Banner Program aims to bring to attention to the different lifestyle that members of the military lead. By understanding this, it sheds light on the sacrifices military members make in order to keep our nation safe. It is a great privilege for the Blue Star Banner Program to celebrate these hometown heroes.



December 2024 Presentation Ceremony

Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service

The City of Crystal Lake Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 26, 2025.

The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at Central High School and runs east on Franklin Avenue, north on Williams Street, and west on Woodstock Street to Union Cemetery, where a Memorial Service is held.

As a reminder, the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service is a solemn event intended to honor veterans and those who have given their lives for their country.

Please do not distribute candy or fliers during the parade and please keep marching units and floats consistent with the nature of this event.

This event is weather dependent. The individual listed on the application will be your organization's day-of contact should the City need to notify those of any weather-related changes via email. If you are interested in participating in the parade, please complete the application and submit to mgray@crystallake.org

APPLICATION

VETERANS

Name of Individual/Group: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Branch of Service: _____

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Unit: _____ Number of Participants: _____

Indemnity/Hold Harmless for Use of City-Owned Property
To the fullest extent permitted by law, the undersigned hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees, against all injuries, deaths, loss, damages, claims, suits, liabilities, judgements, cost and expenses (including attorney fees), which may in any way accrue against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees arising in whole or part or in consequence of the use of City-owned property by the undersigned, its employees, agents, subcontractors, and/or 3rd party, or in which may in anyway result therefore, except that arising out of the sole legal cause of the City of Crystal Lake, its agents or employees. The User of City-owned property shall, at its own expense, appear, defend and pay all charges of attorneys and all costs and other expenses arising therefore or incurred in connections therewith, and, if any judgment shall be rendered against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, in any such action, the User shall, at its own expense, satisfy and discharge the same.

Agreed this _____ day of _____, 20_____

_____ (Signature of User)

_____ (Please Print Name)

The Quarry

Join The Quarry Cable Park for a family-friendly celebration full of Irish charm and excitement! This unforgettable event will take place both indoors and outdoors, offering something for everyone to enjoy.

Event Highlights:

- Irish Dancers: Watch the mesmerizing moves of talented Irish dance performers.
- Bagpiper: Feel the spirit of Ireland with the stirring sounds of a live bagpiper.
- Live Music: Enjoy toe-tapping tunes and sing along to traditional and modern Irish music.
- Delicious Irish Fare: Savor classic Irish dishes and festive treats that will delight your taste buds.
- Fun for All Ages: Games, activities, and surprises for kids and adults alike

Don't miss this celebration of Irish culture and community spirit! Mark your calendar and bring your family and friends to experience the magic of St. Patrick's Day like never before.



CALENDAR | MARCH 2025

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 12
Public Arts Commission Meeting
8:00 A.M.

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

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

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

Wednesday, March 19
Planning & 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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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 emailed to comments@crystallake.org.