City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



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 will be held.

Todd Bertulis, Colonel (Retired), United States Army, will speak at this year's Memorial Day Ceremony. Colonel Bertulis served in many positions throughout his career both in the United States and abroad, including Platoon Leader in Korea and the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Support Operations Officer and Secretary of the General Staff, 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, and more. He also served as Deputy Director of Logistics (J4), United States European Command in Stuttgart, Germany until July 2018 when he returned to the United States to serve as the Military Deputy for Operations at the United States Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, from August 2018 to July 2020. During his career, Colonel Bertulis deployed in support of combat operations to Baghdad, Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom), and to Kandahar, Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom).

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Colonel Bertulis assumed duties as the Defense Coordinating Officer for FEMA Region V, Chicago in July 2020. In that role, Todd served as the primary advisor to the FEMA Regional Administrator and assigned Federal Coordinating Officers ensuring the planning, coordinating, and integration of Department of Defense personnel and equipment for Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) missions.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal (2nd award), the Legion of Merit (2nd award), Bronze Star Medal (3rd award), the Meritorious Service Medal (8th award), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (3rd award), and the Parachutist Badge. Todd holds military branch honor awards including the Honorable Order of Saint Martin, the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe, and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

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 below and submit to mgray@crystallake.org.

If special assistance is needed to participate in the ceremony, please contact Melanie Gray at 815-459-2020 ext. 4084 at least one week prior to the event to make arrangements.

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)

Water Meter Replacement Project

The City of Crystal Lake is in the process of replacing all of the water meters in the City's public water distribution system. The majority of the City's existing water meters have reached the manufacturer's recommended lifecycle of 20 years. The existing water meters utilize moving internal components to measure the consumption of water, which wear out over time. The new meters feature no moving parts and facilitate an automated meter reading process which will provide greater efficiency in meter readings and better customer service.

The City has contracted with Veregy LLC for this water meter replacement project. Water meters will be replaced between May of 2025 and February of 2026. All water meter project personnel will have photo identification, which they will provide at the time of the appointment. In addition, project personnel will arrive at your house with vehicles identified with the water meter project logo shown below. **You will receive a notification postcard via mail from Veregy LLC when they are in your area of the City. This notification will include a phone number to call and a website where you can self-schedule an appointment to have your meter replaced. No one should ask you for payment.**

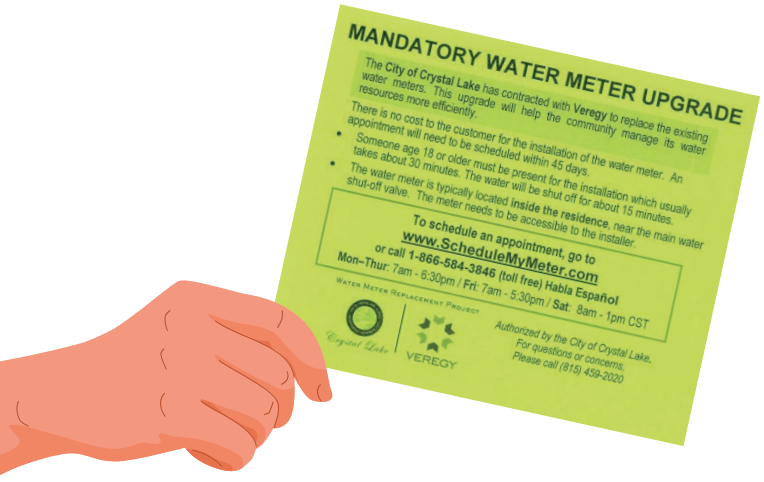
When you receive a postcard, please schedule an appointment within 10 days of delivery of the first postcard for your water meter change-out. If an appointment is not scheduled within 45 days, a $100 fee will be charged monthly.

Meter replacement will require access to each residence or business, as meters are typically located in basements, crawl spaces, or utility closets that could include your furnace or water heater. Residents should check the water meter area prior to the appointment to ensure the space around the meter is accessible and free of storage items or clutter. An adult who is over the age of 18 years old must be present at all meter replacement appointments. The entire change out process usually takes approximately 30 minutes. Once the meter has been changed, your water consumption will be converted to the new automated reading system in the next billing cycle.

The City will roll-out a product to all customers called WaterSmart. This is a web-based portal that will allow each resident to view and manage their water usage. Customers will be able to view and understand their water bills, sign up for customized alerts, and get notified in real time about leaks that may be detected. WaterSmart will provide water conservation tips and walk you through steps you should take to resolve any leaks.

There is no charge for the new meter, but replacement is mandatory. Should you have any questions or concerns related to this process, please call Veregy at (866) 584-3846.

Additionally, you may visit the City website for more information at https://bit.ly/4fyfCWw.





FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

International Firefighters' Day & EMS Week

May 4th is International Firefighters' Day. This day is dedicated to honoring and remembering all firefighters who have served and are serving their communities. Thank you to firefighters everywhere for your dedication and sacrifices for the people and communities you protect.

May 18th through 24th is Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week. During this week, we celebrate and show our appreciation to EMTs and Paramedics for the lifesaving care they provide to communities across the United States. Happy EMS Week!

National Water Safety Month

Warmer weather is here! It's time to get ready for the exciting outdoor adventures and activities that summer offers. Swimming, boating, fishing, and all other water activities are a great way to spend your summer days outdoors. Before you jump into the summer fun, brush up on a few vital water safety tips.

Sources: waterparks.org & nwsm.phta.org



Learn to Swim
One of the best things you can do to stay safe around water is to learn to swim. This is true for everyone, adults and children!



Supervise, Supervise, Supervise!
Parents/adults/guardians, make sure you always supervise children in the water. You are their first line of defense!



Ditch the Alcohol
Refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages before or during swimming, boating, or any other water-related activities. Do not consume alcohol while supervising children around water.



Lifeguards
It is best to swim in areas where lifeguards are present to supervise. Remember, lifeguards are the last line of defense when all other layers of protection fail.



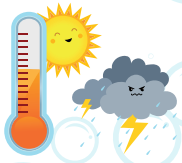
Wear a Life Jacket
If you or someone you know are not strong swimmers, use a life jacket, especially in an open water environment.



Read Signs
Always read and follow posted safety rules and warnings.



Have a Swim Buddy
Teach children to always swim with a buddy.



Pay Attention to the Weather
Pay attention to the weather and prepare accordingly. Stop swimming during bad weather.

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

National Police Week



National Police Week is May 11 to 17. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation designating May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week in which that date falls as National Police Week. This week is dedicated to honoring the memory of law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty while serving their communities.

It is also a meaningful time for us to reflect, remember, and express our gratitude to those who continue to serve with pride, integrity, and commitment to public safety. The Crystal Lake Police Department thanks our community for your continued support as we honor those who have served and those who continue to serve with dedication and pride.

Dunkin' Cop on a Rooftop

Mark your calendars for Friday, May 16th, from 5:00 a.m. - noon! Please join the Crystal Lake Police Department for Cop on a Rooftop at both Dunkin' locations in Crystal Lake, 4817 Northwest Highway and 290 IL Route 31. This is a wonderful opportunity to support Special Olympics athletes and to come together as a community!

Officers will be stationed at both Dunkin' locations, raising funds to support the incredible athletes of Special Olympics. With every donation, guests not only contribute to a great cause, but will also receive a coupon for a free donut. Generous donations of $10 come with a Law Enforcement Torch Run/Dunkin' branded tumbler (while supplies last), a coupon for a free medium hot or iced coffee, and the satisfaction of making a significant impact. Additionally, exclusive shirts will be available for purchase at $20 per shirt and $15 per hat. If you are unable to donate, please help spread the word and let's make a great impact together.



Don't miss out on this opportunity to show your support. See you there!

McHenry County Marine Toys for Tots Program

Children need help not only at Christmas time. The Marine Toys for Tots Program also supports families year-round that are experiencing challenges and in exceptional circumstances, fulfilling needs beyond the holidays.

The McHenry County Marine Toys for Tots Program, along with Kids in Need of McHenry County (KIN), are excited to announce that they have partnered together to promote foster care awareness during KIN's, Stuff the Duffle Drive. Children taken into foster care often only have a few minutes to collect items they will need to take with them. It is common for them to be given black trash bags to transport their belongings. Essential items are often forgotten during this traumatic experience.

Kids In Need of McHenry County and Marine Toys for Tots are dedicated to bringing dignity and a sense of self worth to children by providing them with their own duffel bags filled with items they need and can take with them as they transition between homes.

So, how can you support the McHenry County Marine Toys for Tots Program and KIN? During the month of May, which is National Foster Care Month, instead of collecting toys, we will be collecting clothing and personal hygiene items. These, and other items will be packed in duffle bags and given to foster children in our community. Toys for Tots collection boxes will be at the Crystal Lake Police Department to collect these items for foster children. Below is a list of items as an example of what is needed.

Teenagers

- Athletic Shoes
- Deodorant/Body Spray
- Hair brushes, Picks, and Hair Accessories
- Boys Underwear and Socks- all sizes
- Girls Underwear and Socks - all sizes

Elementary Age

- Boys Underwear, Socks and Pajamas - all sizes
- Girls Underwear, Socks and Pajamas - all sizes
- Athletic Shoes
- Hair Brushes, Picks, and Hair Accessories





18 Months and Older

- Summer Clothes, Socks and Pajamas
- Diapers - size 4 and above
- Baby Wipes





TOYS FOR TOTS®

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620

Deputy Police Chief Rick Neumann - (815) 356-3756 or rneumann@crystallake.org

Follow The CLPD on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on the latest news, events, and safety tips!

2025 Brush Pick-up Schedule

The annual brush pick-up will run from May 12 - June 6. The map below designates which dates brush will be collected in your area. Please have brush placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the Monday of your pick-up week. Brush must be six inches or less in diameter and six feet or less in length to be accepted. Pickup dates are subject to change due to weather events.

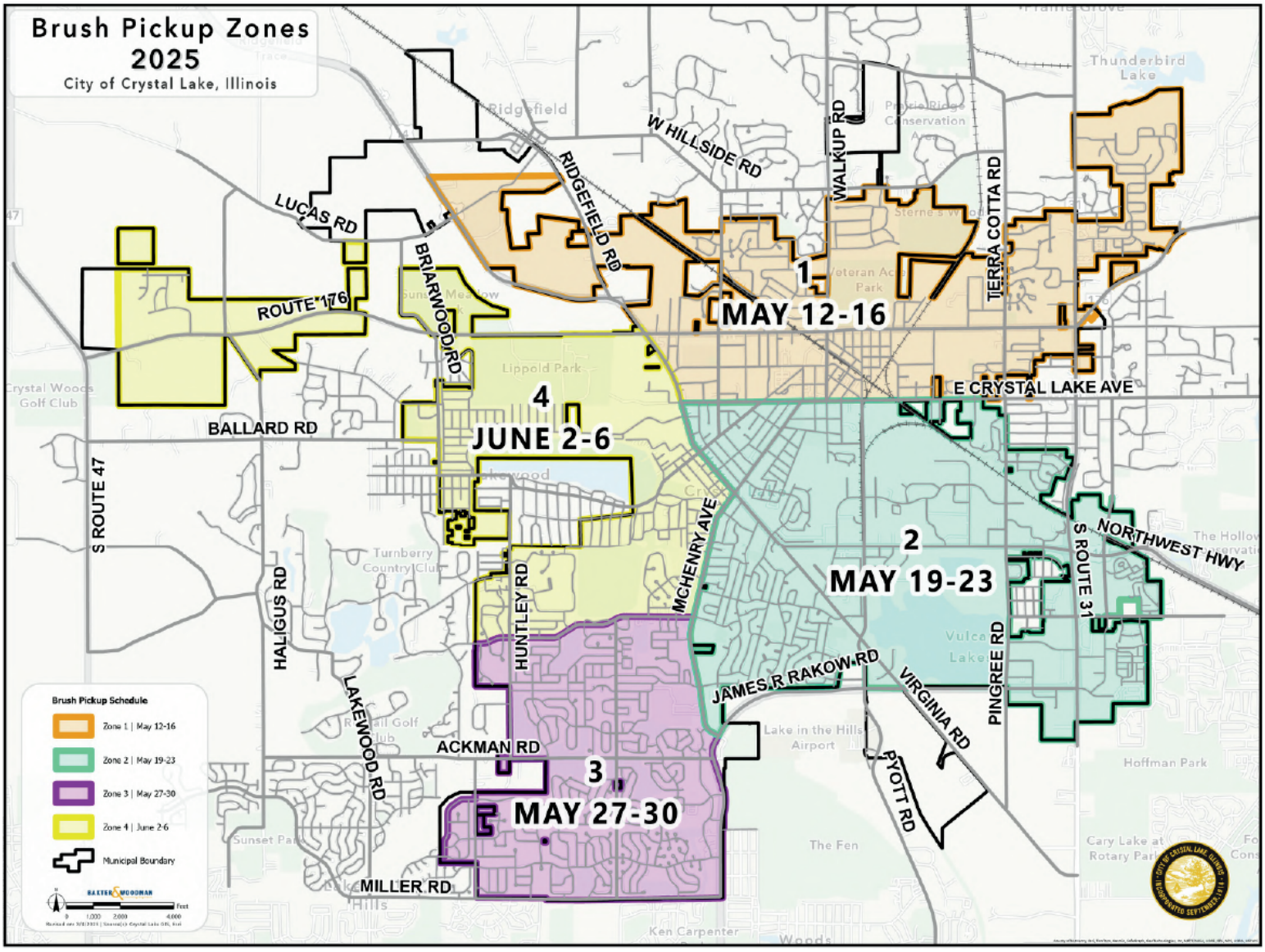
City crews will make a single collection pass on each street, so please ensure your brush is at the curb on time to avoid missing out. For your convenience, any brush not placed at the curb on time may also be taken to the City's Brush Drop-Off Site, located at 410 S. Main Street. The site is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., April through November.

Zone 1 – May 12 - 16
North of Crystal Lake Avenue and East of US Route 14

Zone 2 - May 19 - 23
South of Crystal Lake Avenue and East of US Route 14 and McHenry Avenue

Zone 3 - May 27 - 30
South of Barlina Road and West of McHenry Avenue and Randall Road

Zone 4 – June 2 - 6
North of Barlina Road and West of US Route 14 and McHenry Avenue



BRANDED STEAK HOUSE

DIANA KENNEY

In 2022, a large fire destroyed the D'Andrea Banquets & Conference Center (formerly known as Hob Knob II) at the southeast corner of the intersection of Routes 14 & 31. The site had been home to various restaurants as far back as 1932.

Between 1932 and 1945, Carl and Marie Hendricks owned the site and operated a gas station and barbecue stand known as Marie's Place. They re-named it "The Crystal Y" in 1935. The overpass didn't yet exist, and the intersection formed a Y shape. The next year, they expanded the restaurant and phased out the gas station. In 1945, Otto Koetz took over The Crystal Y. Herbert Huppert and a partner purchased The Crystal Y in 1948 and in 1956 Huppert became the sole owner. In 1962, Huppert sold out to Bob Maginnis who leased to Pierre and Monique Couteau. Although these restaurants were popular enough in their own time, it is the Branded Steak House that seems to trigger more memories and smiles for Crystal Lake residents.



1965 Photo of Branded Steak House. Photo provided by Mildred Chewning

Shortly after the Palm Sunday tornado hit in April 1965, Al Chewning and Willie Hanke decided to team up and open a restaurant. According to Al's wife Mildred, each partner invested $2,000 to start the restaurant. Mildred said the two men knew each other from playing cards at the Four Wheels, a restaurant/bar in Algonquin. Both men worked in the restaurant business with Willie running the Auto Dine (now Around the Clock) and Al cooking for multiple restaurants in town. Understandably, they wanted a place of their own.

The initial investment of $4,000 covered the cost of the liquor license, first payment on the place, and some food for starting the restaurant. Their cash investment, hard work, fun personalities and good food brought the customers in to support The Branded Steak House. The duo did almost $300,000 of business that first year.

Mildred Chewning recalls the original restaurant was quite small. She describes the kitchen as "REALLY small" with no walk-in refrigerator or dishwasher. The Chewning's daughter Diane washed dishes while the other Chewning children helped out with tasks such as drying the silverware and stacking plates. The restaurant initially had a seating capacity of 70.

Over the next ten years, the Branded Steak House went through several remodelings and expansions. In 1967, a new wing of 90 seats was added and the kitchen enlarged. The largest expansion was the addition of a 500-seat dining room in the early 1970s.

Chewning and Hanke remained business partners until 1972. The partnership was dissolved over some disagreement. The Chewnings then purchased a restaurant west of Marengo, naming it The Cloven Hoof. Hanke was now full owner of The Branded Steak House.

The expanded restaurant served a buffet lunch every day but Sunday, dinner every day and Sunday brunch. Char-broiled steaks and seafood were the specialty of one of the best restaurants in the area. In 1975, Branded used about 3,000 pounds of meat and 600-700 pounds of fish a week.

Besides good food, it was the people who worked at the Branded who helped make it so popular. Hanke's employees included manager Bob Lenhart, butcher/chef Joe Lutz, hostess Betty Knauf, waitresses Edwen Psonak, Kathy Shaughnessy, Lois Scudder and Lois Berlin, bar manager John Longano and barkeepers Dick Martin, Ralph Coleman, Vern Goddard, Vaughn Torguson, Ed Miller and Jackie Nations along with many other behind-the scenes folks.

Willie Hanke owned The Branded Steak House until 1983, when the Spentzos family bought it to start Hob Nob II and later D'Andrea Banquets.

Countless banquets, class reunions, senior class dinners and community events were held at the Branded Steak House. These wonderful memories are forever branded in the minds of those who were there.

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

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Lifeguarding Team

Applications to be a lifeguard at Three Oaks Recreation Area are still open! Lifeguards provide a safe environment for guests enjoying the beach while this position provides a fun and team-friendly atmosphere. If you are interested in joining our lifeguard team, please visit the City of Crystal Lake website to complete an application from the Human Resources page.

Calendar Reminders

May

- Weekdays: Marina tentatively open mid-May
- Weekends: Marina open 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., weather permitting
- May 24: Swim Beach opens at 10:00 a.m. for the season, weather permitting

June & July

- Open Water Swim (OWS) opens for Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. There will be no OWS on July 3rd and 5th due to the holiday.

Open Water Swim

Open water swims (OWS) at the Lake House Swimming Beach are held on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Our Lifeguard Team will set up an 850-meter triangular route with corner-buoys, and will oversee the swims in kayaks and/or stand up paddle boards. Beginner and intermediate swimmers can swim at your own pace, and all swimmers choose to complete as many 850-meter laps as desired before the end of each series.

OWS Thursdays | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
June 5, 12, 19, & 26
July 10, 17, 24

OWS Saturdays | 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
June 7, 14, 21, & 28
July 12, 19, & 26

Guest Photo Submissions

Share your favorite summer memories with us as we look forward to the warmer weather! 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.



Photo Credit: Ali Hodges

Boat Rentals

Row boats will be available to rent, while human-powered watercraft will become available once the water temperature warms up. Boat rentals are all first-come, first-served and advanced registration will not be taken.



Park amenities may close due to inclement weather. This includes, but is not limited to, high winds, anticipated thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, cold temperatures, severe weather, or if our lightning detection system sounds. To stay informed on weather conditions at Three Oaks, please check our Rainout Line.

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

2025 Street Resurfacing

The 2025 Street Resurfacing Program is now underway. This year's program includes the following streets and locations shown in the table to the right. Crystal Lake's resurfacing program is structured to have concrete work at all locations completed before any asphalt work takes place. This includes curb replacement as needed and updating any sidewalk ramps that are not up to current ADA standards. Once the concrete work is completed in one area, the contractor temporarily fills in any holes in the pavement with stone, and moves onto the next area.

Once all concrete work is complete, approximately four weeks later, the asphalt work begins. The existing asphalt surface is removed, if needed, the stone base is repaired, and then the asphalt layers are installed. The asphalt portion of the work typically takes 4-5 days, and the road can be driven on within a few hours of installation. With proper maintenance, the new pavement surfaces should last for up to 20 years.

	Limits	
Street	From	To
Maplewood Lane	Oak Street	Lincoln Parkway
Terra Cotta Frontage	Terra Cotta	Lincoln Parkway
Lincoln Parkway	Terra Cotta	Woodstock Street
Prairie Street	Main Street	Glen Avenue
Prairie Street	Railroad Tracks	East Street
Prairie Street	East Street	Erick Street
Cog Circle	Pingree Road	Chalet Drive
Cog Circle	Chalet Drive	End
Cog Circle	Route 14	Cog Circle
Coventry Lane	Berkshire Drive	Virginia Street
Bristol Drive	Coventry Lane	Devonshire Lane
Lee Court	Coventry Lane	Coventry Lane
Lee Drive	McHenry Avenue	Coventry Lane
Sussex Lane	Berkshire Drive	Lee Drive
Lake Street	McHenry Avenue	Coventry Lane
Linn Avenue	Everett Avenue	Virginia Street
Brink Alley	Brink Street	Grant Street

Pedestrian Crossing Beacon Safety

Over the years, the City has installed several pedestrian crossing beacons around the City to improve pedestrian safety. These beacons are push button activated and are located at un-signalized road crossings with heavy pedestrian traffic. When crossing at these signals, please always follow these general safety rules:

Drivers:

- Always STOP for pedestrians entering or in a crosswalk
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk
- Do not block the crosswalk

Pedestrians:

- Make eye contact with the motorists to be sure traffic is yielding before entering the crosswalk
- Make sure all lanes of traffic are clear before you cross the street
- Walk defensively, scanning both directions to be sure motorists see you



CALENDAR | MAY 2025

Thursday, May 1
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Tuesday, May 6
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

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

Thursday, May 8
Youth Commission Meeting
4:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 14
Public Arts Commission Meeting
8:00 A.M.

Tuesday, May 20
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 21
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, May 21
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Monday, May 26
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
Ian Philpot
Denise Smith
Natasha Teetsov

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.