City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Three Oaks Recreation Area Hours

Get ready for summer fun! Enjoy pristine waters, incredible fishing, and relaxation. Rent rowboats, canoes, kayaks, and paddle boats. Plan a picnic, and overlook breathtaking views of the water and islands. Make memories at the kid-friendly splash pad and playground, and eat lunch at the Lake House patio. Experience recreational scuba diving, or become certified through various community scuba schools in the Scuba Zone.

Hours for the different amenities at Three Oaks can be viewed below. For more information, please visit our website at https://www.crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation.

Marina
6:30 a.m. to Sunset, weather permitting

Swim Beach
10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., weather permitting

Scuba Zone
8:00 a.m. to Sunset, weather permitting

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THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Lake Loop Trail Progress

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 early 2025 and is anticipated to be complete in 2026.



Important Notice: While we understand that people are excited to use the expanding lake loop trail, please be reminded that the trail is not yet open. Construction is still ongoing and will be through 2025. For your safety, please stay off of any unfinished trails. Signs will be posted throughout the park letting visitors know when the trail has opened.

Check out aerial footage of the progress along Pingree Road (Segment 1) by scanning the QR code below, or visit our website at https://bit.ly/4gBLgBW.

Open Water Swim

Open Water Swim is described as distanced swimming beyond the boundaries of the regular swim beach on select dates and times only. This is a special session that is in addition to the regular swim beach operation hours.

Registration and check-in begins 60 minutes prior to scheduled start times. The Open Water Swim fee is $5.00 each session, per participant.

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.

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

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation Program

Smoke alarms save lives! When it comes to fire safety, smoke alarms are vital warning tools to have within the home. Working smoke alarms give people the time and opportunity to escape during a fire emergency. Remember, fires are fast! Around 40 years ago, a person had approximately 17 minutes to escape a fire. Today, the escape time is only three minutes. Having smoke alarms in your home makes a difference.



The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department is now offering free smoke alarm installations for eligible Crystal Lake residents through the Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation Program. By working cooperatively with the nonprofit Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal, the Department will install 10-year sealed lithium battery-operated smoke alarms and provide fire safety education materials to at-risk homes within the community.

- Smoke alarms that are part of a hard-wired system will not be provided by the Department.
- Bed shaker alarms are available for residents who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Residents who have purchased their own smoke alarm devices, but need assistance with installation can also call the Department for help.

Please note: Business owners, apartment complex managers, and landlords must supply and install their own smoke alarms for their tenants.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, give the Fire Rescue Department a call!

Camping Safety

Before setting out on a camping trip, take a moment to make sure you have prepared yourself for a safe experience.

- Know the level of ability of the people in your camping group.
- Know the environment you will be camping in.
- Bring a first aid kit with you. First aid kits can help you handle sprains, cuts, and other minor injuries that may happen while on your trip.
- Some of the most common injuries campers experience are sprains and falls. Dehydration is also a danger.

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- Notify family, a friend, or a neighbor of your travel plans and locations.
- Pack nutritious food items and plenty of water. Bring lightweight clothing to layer, and don't forget to pack enough supplies for your pets.
- Before starting a campfire, make sure your campsite allows campfires. Always supervise the fire and dump lots of water on it to fully extinguish it. Make sure the fire is completely out before leaving the area.



Source: American Red Cross

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640

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

Sustainability Committee Litter Clean-up Initiative



Help the Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee prevent litter accumulation in our community! As part of the litter cleanup initiative, the Sustainability Committee has placed four public trash cans within the community at the following locations:

- The intersection of Dartmoor Drive and McHenry Avenue (Crystal Lake South High School)
- Crystal Lake Avenue leading to Lippold Park
- Briarwood Road near West Elementary School
- Corner of East Avenue and Oak Court

Properly disposing litter makes a large impact in the City. Litter is not only unsightly, but it can also harm wildlife, pollute water sources, and pose physical hazards. Keeping Crystal Lake free of litter improves community appearance, supports public health, and even encourages positive behavior. Picking up litter is one of the simplest, most visible ways individuals can make an immediate impact. To view more information on City owned trash can locations, please visit our website: https://bit.ly/3Qf9Q0t



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Become Involved

The City of Crystal Lake values community effort to keep our environment clean. One good habit to practice this summer is to pick up litter from public areas on a regular basis. This can be done while going on walks, at parks and beaches, or along local roadsides. Participants must remember to be aware of their surroundings when picking up litter and protect themselves from possible contamination. Practicing routine litter cleanup gives residents a chance to show their commitment to keeping Crystal Lake beautiful.

Adopt-A-Highway Program

Are you looking for an engaging and impactful volunteer opportunity that fits your schedule? The City of Crystal Lake is looking for participants to help keep local streets clean. The Adopt-A-Highway program is now offering more streets that residents and businesses can adopt. Volunteer groups or individuals can adopt a one-half mile to one-mile stretch of City roadway for a two-year period. If this interests you, please visit our website at https://bit.ly/4aT8l1H.

2025 Independence Day Parade

The City of Crystal Lake will be celebrating Independence Day with the much-anticipated parade and fireworks. This year's Independence Day parade will resume its traditional 1.8-mile route of heading down Dole Avenue. The parade will kick off on Sunday, July 6th at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall (100 W. Woodstock Street), where it will continue down Dole Avenue, and finishes at the Lakeside Festival Grounds.

Additionally, an accessible viewing area and handicap parking area for the Independence Day parade will be located in the parking lot at the corner of Woodstock Street and Dole Avenue at the start of the parade route. Signage will mark the designated area and access point. The location is shown to the right.



Lakeside Festival

Don't miss out on the Annual Lakeside Festival, held on the grounds of the historic Dole Mansion from Thursday, July 3rd through Sunday, July 6th. The festival features live music, food booths, midway games, carnival rides, and a fun family atmosphere. The event is made possible thanks in large part to many hardworking volunteers and sponsors.

Lakeside Fest Schedule	
Thursday, July 3	Noon - 11:00 p.m.
Friday, July 4	Noon - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 5	Noon - 11:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 6	Noon - 10:00 p.m.

Lakeside Festival is the largest fundraiser for the Lakeside Legacy Foundation's year-round programs and events.

The Lakeside Festival festivities will conclude with the City of Crystal Lake sponsored 2025 fireworks show on Sunday, July 6th. The fireworks will launch from Crystal Lake at dusk near Main Beach. The fireworks promise a grand show for the entire family to enjoy.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy Independence Day.

For additional information, visit www.thedole.org or call (815) 455-8000.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Night Out T-shirt Design Contest

Hey Crystal Lake students in 3rd–5th grade!

Ever dream of riding in a police car to school? Want to see your artwork on a t-shirt? Now's your chance!

National Night Out is coming up on Thursday, August 7th, and the Crystal Lake Police Department is bringing back our T-Shirt Design Contest—thanks to Eby Graphics!

The winning design will be printed on exclusive t-shirts handed out at the event—while supplies last. Plus, the winner gets a special ride to school in a police car!

Submit your awesome designs to Officer Kelci at kmcgrath@crystallake.org. We can't wait to see what you create!



Staying Safe this Summer

June brings more people outside—walking, biking, and driving. With school out and more people enjoying the sunshine, it's important for everyone to share the road responsibly.

Pedestrian Safety Tips:

- Always cross at marked crosswalks or intersections
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing, assume drivers don't see you
  - Be aware that parked cars or other obstacles can block your view
- Stay alert—avoid looking at your phone or other distractions when walking near traffic
- Wear bright or reflective clothing in the early morning or evening

Driver Safety Tips:

- Slow down in neighborhoods and areas where children might be playing
- Expect increased pedestrian and bike traffic, especially near parks and schools.
- Never text or look at your phone while driving—distractions are dangerous
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, even if they seem hesitant. A little courtesy goes a long way.

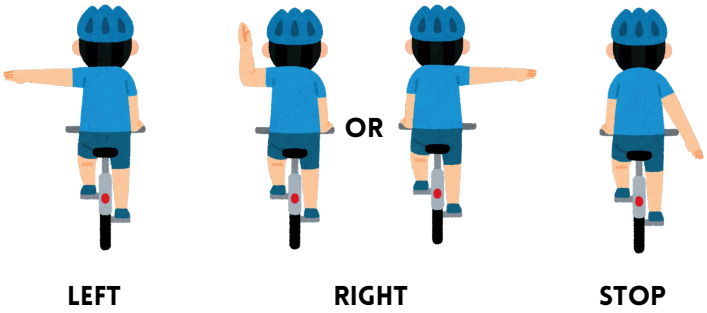
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A Reminder for Cyclists:

- Follow the rules of the road; ride in the same direction as traffic
- Use hand signals when turning
- Wear a helmet; it's a simple step that saves lives

Let's all do our part to keep our streets safe this summer.



Lock it Up

As summer gets underway and we're all enjoying longer days and warmer nights, it's a good time to remember some simple but important steps to keep your property—and loved ones—safe.

Lock up
Every year, thefts from vehicles increase during the summer months. Whether you're parking at the mall, local park, grocery store, or your own driveway—always lock your vehicle. It takes just seconds for a thief to grab valuables from an unlocked car.

Hide your valuables or take them with you
Never leave bags, electronics, wallets, or anything valuable in plain sight inside your car. Even small items like sunglasses or charging cords can tempt a thief. When in doubt, take it with you or store it out of sight.

Secure your home
With windows open and garage doors up more frequently, homes become easy targets. Be sure to lock doors and windows when you leave—even if it's just for a quick errand.

NEVER leave children or pets unattended in vehicles
Temperatures inside a parked car can skyrocket in minutes, even with windows cracked. This can lead to serious injury or worse. Please double-check your backseat before walking away, and if you see a child or pet alone in a vehicle, call 911 immediately.

Holiday Preparation

As we head into summer celebrations, don't forget to stay safe. From fireworks to festivals, a little planning goes a long way. Check out the tips below to make sure your fun stays safe and stress-free!

- Do not use fireworks at home. Leave it to the professionals
- Be aware of your surroundings in large gatherings and report any suspicious activity.
- If you plan to drink, designate a sober driver or use a ride sharing service. Remember, if you feel different, you drive different.



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!

Service Through the Decades: A Centennial Celebration

For 100 years, the women of the Service League of Crystal Lake have been connected to Crystal Lake in a special, unique way, quietly serving up help and hope to its neediest residents.

Eliza “Lou” Ringling had a role in their founding with her purchase of the Dole Mansion. Under her guidance, the mansion was completely renovated and became home to the Crystal Lake Country Club, where guests could stay for a night or the summer in one of its 44 bedrooms. In 1925, it was in one of those bedrooms that a group of five women met regularly near the warmth of the log fireplace to sew, calling themselves the South Shore Sewing Circle. Founding members Elizabeth Hoy, Elizabeth “Cac” Breytspaak, Gertrude Brunckhorst, Mossie Lyman, and Edith Eldred’s compassion began one of the more impactful charitable organizations in Crystal Lake that you may never have heard of.

At first, the group was purely a social one, but they soon were sewing pajamas, clothing, and doll clothes for the children in the Woodstock Children’s Home. At the holidays, they filled baskets with food, sweets and toys for needy local families. Their focus changed dramatically in their second year, when local resident William Schoen, a widower with two children, was left blind by an accident. The Circle organized a large card party to benefit him and his family. Tickets were a $1 each for an evening of Bunco and card games, and local businesses donated prizes and raffle items. Crystal Lake women came out in support, and $460 (about $9,600 today) was raised to pay off Schoen’s mortgage. This led then Crystal Lake Mayor Fred B Mathis to take note of the group and ask that the Circle continue fundraising for the city’s newly established Public Welfare Society. He got his wish, and more. The card parties, dinners, dances, plays, style (fashion) shows, and rummage sales also funded coal, food, clothing, eyeglasses, shoes, medical and dental care, and other necessities given directly to needy residents.



Service League circa. 1939

Soon, they recognized that the members were from all over town and they weren’t just sewing, so they changed their name in 1933 to the Service League of Crystal Lake. In 1934, asked to help nourish the city’s needy school children, a Milk Fund was established to provide it free to junior and high school students. In the early 1940’s, they donated $400 worth of new books to the Crystal Lake Public Library and established a fund to provide dental care to school children whose parents couldn’t afford it. In the 1950s, money was raised for a hot pack machine for polio victims and given to the city. The League’s scholarship program was created in 1952, a program that continues to this day and will award $82,500 to local high school students in 2025.

Big or small, where there is need, the League has stepped up to fill it - everything from utility bills, rent deposits, car repairs, and funeral expenses to camp fees, and prom tickets. Recently a generous sponsor’s gift funded a $10,000 program for teachers’ classroom needs. Funds are raised the same way they always have, with fun events similar to those in 1925 like fashion shows and dances, and newer ones like the Annual Housewalk which attracts visitors from all over to our beautiful community.

The 45 current members are continuing this 100-year-old legacy of service, helping discreetly and directly with short-term and emergency assistance. They are not just celebrating a number; they are celebrating the impact they have had on the lives of so many people in Crystal Lake. The Service League will be thanking the community for their years of support at a Centennial Celebration on June 21st at the Dole Mansion where it all began. Watch for their Centennial Quilt and a chance to own a piece of Crystal Lake’s history yourself. It will be traveling around the community this summer, including at the Farmers Market+ at the Dole, and at the Crystal Lake Library in August.

By Ruth Scifo, Service League Centennial Committee and Diana Kenney, Crystal Lake Historical Society

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 now through 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.

To view an informational video about the project, please scan the QR code below, or it's available on the City website at the above link.

WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Crystal Lake | VEREGY

Clearly CRYSTAL LAKE

Shop Local

The weather is heating up and the summer shopping season has officially kicked off! Remember to shop smart and support local businesses this summer! When you shop local, you're not just buying products, you're investing in the community. Local businesses are the backbone of our vibrant community, whether it's the restaurant down the street, that unique boutique, or the family-owned shop. They provide jobs, support local causes, sponsor teams and events, and create the unique character that makes Crystal Lake so special.

Here are a few reasons to shop local this summer:

- **Strengthen the Community:** Local businesses are more likely to donate to causes that help our community, like local sports teams or charity events. Many times, you'll see them supporting the parades, festivals, and other activities that make Crystal Lake such a lively place to live.

- **Unique Finds & Quality Products:** Whether it's a one-of-a-kind gift, handmade jewelry, or a local art piece, shopping local means you're supporting craftsmanship and unique offerings you can't get anywhere else. Plus, the quality often speaks for itself!

- **Personalized Service:** Local shops tend to offer more personalized customer service because they really know their products and care about your experience. The owners are usually part of the community, so they want to make sure you leave happy and come back again!

- **Local Economy Boost:** When you spend at a local shop, a greater portion of the money stays within the community and circulates to support other local businesses. It creates a ripple effect, benefitting everything from local schools to public services.

So, this summer, when you're looking for a place to dine, shop, or explore, take a moment to think about how your choices can impact the Crystal Lake community. Let's keep it local and make this summer the best one yet for our town!

Manufacturing Pathways Consortium

Are you a resident looking for manufacturing job opportunities? Did you know you can complete an application and submit your resume through the Manufacturing Pathways Consortium where the manufacturers in McHenry County can see your application and contact you about job opportunities. Think of this as an ongoing job fair. Let the manufacturers come to you! Apply today at:
https://mfgpathways.com/whos-hiring/

No resume? No problem, the McHenry County College Career Services team is available to assist you with resume development and interview preparation. This free service is available to all students and community members. Contact careers@mchenry.edu or (815) 455-8566 to get started.

Summer Happenings

Scan the QR codes below to view various events and things to do this summer!

DOWNTOWN CRYSTAL LAKE

THE QUARRY CABLE PARK

Drinking Water Quality Report

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the federal law that protects public drinking water supplies throughout the nation. Under the SDWA, the Environmental Protection agency sets standards for drinking water quality and with its partners, implements various technical and financial programs to ensure drinking water safety.

The SDWA requires that all water utilities produce and distribute a water quality report each year, which is also called a Consumer Confidence Report. This report includes a comparison of drinking water test results to federal drinking water standards, information about municipal water sources and an overview of treatment processes.

The Crystal Lake Public Works Department is committed to providing safe water to our residents and we are strong supporters of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Crystal Lake Annual Water Quality Report is available at:
El Informe anual de calidad del Agua de Crystal Lake esta disponible en:
https://www.crystallake.org/home/showpublisheddocument/24239

If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please call: (815) 356 -3614.

CALENDAR | JUNE 2025

Tuesday, June 3
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, June 4
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Thursday, June 5
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Tuesday, June 17
Economic Development Committee Meeting
8:00 A.M.

Tuesday, June 17
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, June 18
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, June 18
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
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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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.