City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER











National Night Out

Are you ready for National Night Out? Join the Crystal Lake Police Department on Thursday, August 7, 2025, in Downtown Crystal Lake. This free, family-friendly event runs from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and includes:

- K-9 Cruise Meet & Greet
- Bicycle helmet sizing and giveaway (while supplies last)
- Touch-a-Truck display
- Hand prints on the squad car
- Food and entertainment from local businesses & more!

Leashing your Dogs

Please be cognizant of the ordinance for leashing dogs. Crystal Lake Ordinance 166-7: *No animal shall be permitted, except on a leash, to use or be upon any public street, sidewalk, parkway or public place.*

No owner of an animal shall fail to control such animal on the owner's property through the means of a leash, fence or the immediate control of a responsible person.

This ordinance not only serves the purpose of keeping the people of Crystal Lake safe, but keeps our furry family members safe as well!

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Back to School Safety

With summer break quickly coming to a close, here are a few reminders to keep in mind while helping to maintain the safety of students!

- **School Zones and Crosswalks:** Be vigilant, keep your eyes on the road and avoid distractions. Adhere to the speed limit, especially in school zones when children are present.
- **School Buses:** It is illegal to pass a school bus from any direction when the lights are flashing and the stop arms are out. Know what to do in different road scenarios by reviewing the scenes to the right:

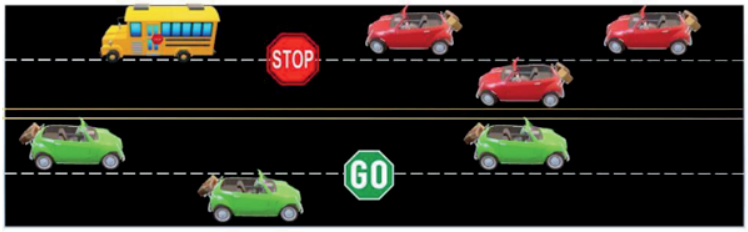




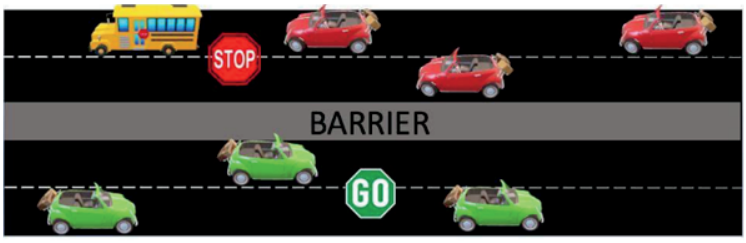
Two-Lane Roadway with Center Turn Lane: When school bus stops to unload passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



Two-Lane Roadway: When school bus stops to unload passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



Four-Lane Roadway without a Median Separation: When school bus stops to unload passengers, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.



Divided Highway of Four Lanes or More with a Median Separation: When school bus stops to unload passengers, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.

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!

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Grilling Safety

Grilling, especially during the summer months, is one of the most popular ways to cook food. While grilling is a common cooking practice, it can be dangerous. Grilling too close to anything flammable, for example, your house, can lead to a fire or an accidental injury. Following a few simple safety tips can help prevent an accident from happening.

Here are a few best practices to keep in mind when grilling:

- Only use your grill outside
- Never leave your grill unattended while cooking
- Before lighting your grill, make sure the lid is open
- Establish a 3-foot perimeter around your grilling area to keep kids and pets at a safe distance
- Double check that you have turned off your gas grill and propane tank once you have finished cooking
- Remember to clean your grill. Remove fat or grease buildup from the grill and the trays below the grill

Save the Date - Annual Open House Event!

This year, the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department is hosting its Annual Open House Event on October 4, 2025. The Open House will be located at Station One: 100 W. Woodstock Street, starting from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Make sure you mark your calendars to come and enjoy a day of fun and learning! This event is completely free.

The Open House will have:

- Fire Safety Demonstrations
- Blood Pressure Checks
- Apparatus Display
- Activities and more!



Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640

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

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Change in Hours of Operation

Marina

August 1 - 10 Daily: 6:30 a.m. to Sunset
August 11 - 29 Weekdays: Closed
August 16 - 31 Weekends: Open at 6:30 a.m.

The beach will close for the season after Labor Day, Monday, September 1, 2025.

Swim Beach

August 1 - 10 Daily: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
August 11 - August 29 Weekdays: Closed
August 16 - September 1 Weekends: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

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.



Photo by: Carole Hubbard

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

World Water Week

World Water Week takes place from August 24 - 28, 2025 and this year's theme is Water for Climate Action. World Water Week has been held every year since 1991 and focuses on global water issues.

Participate in discussions ranging from the entire water cycle to highlighting the importance of protecting natural ecosystems, biodiversity, and the climate crisis. In previous years, there were 15,000 participants worldwide from 193 countries and territories.

World Water Week primarily takes place in Stockholm Sweden, but also allows for free online participation across the world. To learn more or sign up to attend World Water Week online, visit: https://www.worldwaterweek.org/.

THE WILBRANDT BARN

DIANA KENNEY

While there are many carriage barns still standing in Crystal Lake, it's rare to find a dairy barn in the middle of the city—but here is one! The Wilbrandt Barn is located at 30 Railroad Street.

In 1921, Arthur Wilbrandt purchased two lots from Lewis Burton. The lots are located in one of the oldest subdivisions of Crystal Lake. The front lot included an American Four-Square house at 43 Gates Street, which was built about 1906. It also included a carriage barn. The second lot on Railroad Street, located behind the house and carriage barn, was vacant when Wilbrandt made the purchase.

Arthur Wilbrandt was born June 14, 1894 in Algonquin. His wife, Otilla "Tillie" Pokorny, was born February 18, 1897 in Chicago. The couple married in 1915. They had three sons—Robert, Arthur and Norman.

Beginning in 1919, Wilbrandt advertised himself as a Cattle Dealer. After purchasing the house on Gates Street and the empty lot behind it, Wilbrandt built the dairy barn which still stands today at 30 Railroad Street. The barn has a gambrel roof with a double slope on each side of the roof. The advantage of a gambrel roof is it provides extra attic space for storage.

Arthur's grandson, Doug Wilbrandt shares the following information, "*The family originally had two farms – one where the Country Corners Shopping Center is on Route 14 and one by Terra Cotta Road and Half Mile Road (near TC Industries). There was a disease going through local livestock so my grandfather would buy cows in Reedsburg, Wisconsin and have them shipped by train here. The ones he was selling locally, he would keep in that barn. The ones he kept for himself he would unload and "herd" them down Walkup Avenue (my dad and uncle had the cart behind them to scoop up the poop), past the high school, to their farm on Route 14. There was also a large stockyard area by the present city hall. The farm by TC was where they kept their equipment and farmed.*"

During the 1920s, there are several mentions in the newspaper about Arthur Wilbrandt going to Wisconsin to purchase cattle. Wilbrandt was a member of the Pure Milk Association. Eventually, Wilbrandt and other local dealers found feeder steers were much easier to market as milk cows became subject to many more regulations and inspections.

Wilbrandt's century-old dairy barn has retained its original hayloft opening and sliding barn doors on the ground floor. Today it boasts a decorative wood flag, which breaks up the solid white siding and adds a patriotic touch to this local treasure.



The Wilbrandt Barn - 2025

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

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

Tumblers Around Town!

Come join the scavenger hunt fun around town with a new location every week! Each Tuesday, a new Clearly Crystal Lake tumbler is hidden somewhere throughout Crystal Lake in a restaurant or retail store. A picture is posted on the Clearly Crystal Lake Facebook and Instagram pages every Tuesday morning at 8:00 a.m. with a clue of where it can be found. The hunt begins at 10:00 a.m. that same day. The first person to find the tumbler gets to keep it, and is asked to share a picture of where it was found to the existing Clearly Crystal Lake social media post!



Be on the lookout for the tumblers around town as this scavenger hunt will run through the end of August 2025. Follow the Clearly Crystal Lake social media pages to stay in the fun by scanning the QR codes below!

FOLLOW US ON Instagram

Facebook

New Businesses Now Open

Black Market Bakery - 86 N. Williams Street



Poke West - 5150 Northwest Highway, Unit 6



Curbside Electronics Recycling

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of September 8 - 12, 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 March 2026. 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 Children's Toys	Smoke and Fire Detectors
Coffee Makers	Packaging Materials
Computer Disks	Microwaves
Dishwashers	Water Softeners

CALENDAR | AUGUST 2025

Tuesday, August 5
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, August 6
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Thursday, August 7
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Tuesday, August 19
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, August 20
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, August 26
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
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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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.