City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Coffee With the Chief

Join Chief Black for Coffee with the Chief and take part in an important conversation about the challenges facing our schools and community—particularly the growing impact of social media. Online posts can quickly raise serious concerns that require police involvement, initiate investigations, and call for close coordination with school staff and families. We'll discuss how the Crystal Lake Police Department works closely with District 47 and District 155 to address these situations, often speaking with students and engaging with parents to help ensure everyone's safety. This meeting will include school staff, Investigations Sergeant Dade, and School Resource Officers. This is an opportunity for parents, educators, and community members to ask questions, share concerns, and learn more about how we work together to keep our schools safe.

When: Tuesday, September 9, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Where: Crystal Lake Police Department, 100 W. Woodstock St.
Who: Open to all community members, parents, and school staff from District 47 and District 155.

Please RSVP to Officer Kris at kstolzman@crystallake.org or by calling her at (815) 356-3673. We look forward to seeing you there!

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Child Passenger Safety Week

Every day, parents and caregivers across the nation transport young children to school, daycare, and more using car seats and boosters seats. Shockingly, nearly half of these safety devices are installed incorrectly, potentially jeopardizing your child's safety during travel.

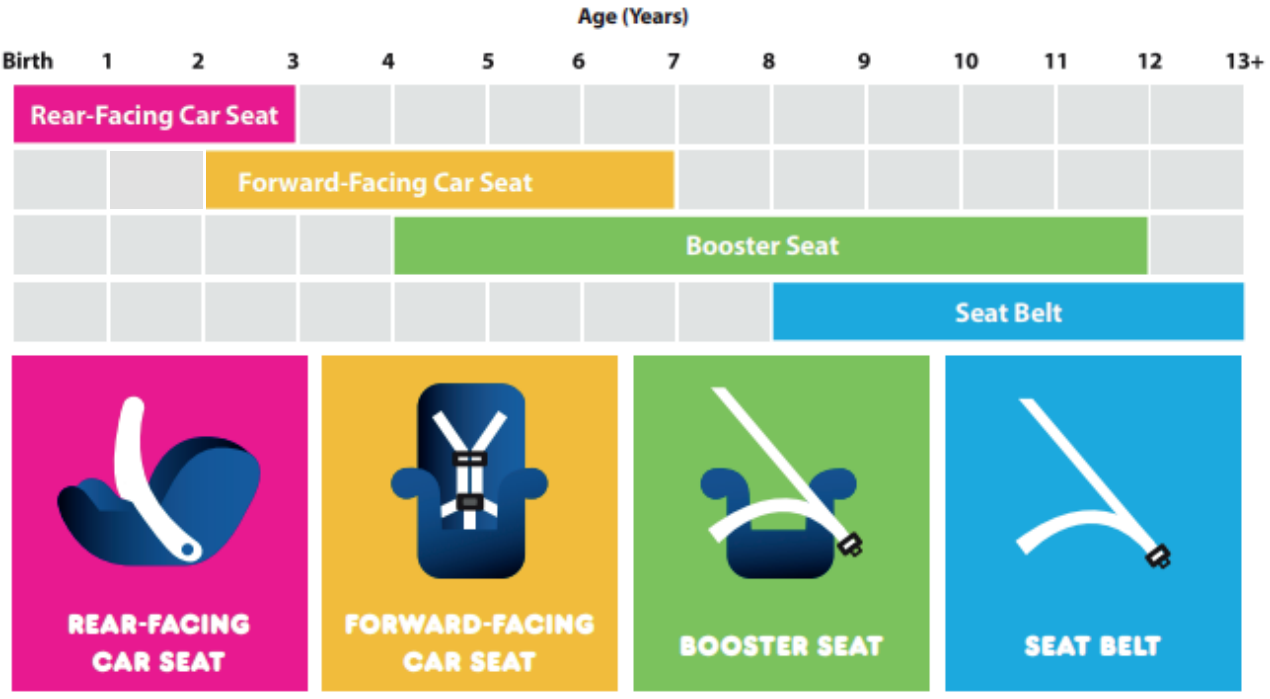
A child's age, weight, and height are essential factors in choosing the right safety harnesses, making it crucial to stay updated on the latest regulations and recommendations. From September 17 - 23, the Crystal Lake Police Department will focus on child passenger safety, emphasizing that properly installed car seats and booster seats provide a straightforward way to enhance your child's safety. When used correctly, these seats can reduce the risk of fatal injuries in a crash by up to 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers.

Selecting the appropriate car seat is key. For children weighing between 5 and 40 pounds, a rear-facing car seat is vital. Once they surpass this weight range, a forward-facing seat can be used, typically after the age of two. As your child outgrows the forward-facing seat, transitioning to a booster seat is ideal. The booster seat elevates your child to ensure a proper fit of the adult lap belt and shoulder belt. Illinois State law requires children to remain rear-facing until age two.

Don't hesitate to contact the Crystal Lake Police Department for a car seat inspection, ensuring your child's safety on the road.

Car Seat Recommendations for Children

There are many car seat choices on the market. Use the information below to help you choose the type of car seat that best meets your child's needs.



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- Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, choose a seat that fits in your vehicle, and use it every time.
- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions (check height and weight limits) and read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or lower anchors and a tether, if available.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.

Rail Safety Week

Since 2017, Rail Safety Week has saved lives by educating and empowering the public to make safe decisions around trains and tracks and raising awareness of the need for rail safety education. Here are 7 Steps for Navigating Freight and Commuter Train Crossings:

- Stop, look both ways, and listen. Remember that trains always have the right of way
- Make sure you have room to get across. Once you enter the crossing, keep moving.
- Stop 15 feet away from flashing red lights, lowered gates, a signaling flagman or a stop sign.
- Never try to drive around a lowering gate. Never ignore signals, and always use caution.
- After a train passes, wait for gates to fully rise and for all lights to stop flashing before your cross.
- Never assume that there is only one train coming from a single direction.
- If your car stalls on a track, quickly get everyone out — even if you don't see a train coming. Run away from the tracks and your car to avoid being hit by flying debris.



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!

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Close Your Door - It Makes a Difference!

Have you ever heard of 'Close before You Doze'? It is a safety initiative established to educate people about the significant impact a closed door can have in a fire emergency. The Fire Safety Research Institute has proven that a closed door can potentially save lives and help delay the spread of a fire. Key takeaways from the fire safety research found that, during a fire, rooms with closed doors have average temperatures of less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, versus 1000+ degrees in rooms with open doors. The research also indicated substantial differences in gas concentrations, with open door rooms having extremely toxic levels of carbon monoxide (measuring 10,000 parts per million) while a closed door room had less toxic levels (measuring 100 parts per million). The picture below shows just how effective a closed door can be during a fire emergency.

Do you sleep with your bedroom door open? Not anymore! Starting now, close your door before you go to sleep. Remember, CLOSE BEFORE YOU DOZE!



OPEN HOUSE!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2025
9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
FIRE STATION 1



Get ready! Our Open House is coming soon, and it's an event you won't want to miss. Come by and experience:

- An exciting apparatus display
- The opportunity to spray a fire hose
- A challenging obstacle course
- A captivating technical rescue demonstration
- Plus, many other exciting activities!

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640

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

National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month which means it is time to either create or review your emergency preparedness plan. A disaster or emergency can strike at any moment and being prepared can make a difference for you and your family.

A first step to help prepare you and your family is to build an emergency supply kit. Here are some ideas for items you could include in your emergency supply kit:

- **Water:** Keep a gallon of water per person, per day stocked for emergencies. Depending on where you live you may want to keep anywhere from three to fourteen days supply of water on hand.
- **Food:** Stock up on non-perishable food, for example, cans and dry goods.
- **Cash:** Have enough cash on hand to purchase food, fuel, and a few nights at a hotel in case you need to evacuate your home.
- Can opener and any other food preparation tools you may need
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle
- N-95 respirator masks
- Wrench (or pliers) to shut off utilities
- Local Maps

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This list does not include everything you may want or need in your emergency supply kit. Other items to consider could include paper and pencil, sleeping bags or blankets, extra food and water for pets, feminine hygiene products, or cleaning supplies. Every person and family's needs are different, so it is important to tailor the items included in your emergency supply kit to match your needs.

Source: Ready.gov



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

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Change in Hours of Operation

Marina
For the most up to date information, please visit our website at https://www.crystallake.org/three-oaks-recreation.

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

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.





Photos by: Maria Alvarez and Christine Gralewski

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

How Do I Know my Water is Safe?

America's drinking water is among the safest in the world. The City of Crystal Lake releases an Annual Water Quality Report every year. Also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), this report is produced each year as mandated by the federal government. The CCR lists the level of contaminants that have been detected in the water, including those identified by the EPA, and whether the public water system meets state and EPA drinking water standards. The City's reports cover January 1 - December 31 of each year. To read the most current CCR, visit:
https://www.crystallake.org/home/showpublisheddocument/24239/638829041756070000

How Does Your Water System Work?

When you turn on your faucet, water seems to magically appear. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and water utilities work together to bring clean, safe water into homes and businesses every day.

In the US, approximately 90% of the population gets drinking water from a **public water system (PWS)** that treats, stores, and distributes the water.



1. Water Sources
The source of the water flowing from your tap is a combination of shallow and deep ground water wells.

2. Water Treatment
The City will treat the source water to make sure it's safe. The Safe Water Drinking Act requires the IEPA to establish and enforce the safety standards that the City must follow.

3. Water Storage & Distribution
After treatment, the City holds the water in storage tanks. Eventually, the water is pumped and distributed throughout the City through water mains and water lines .

How much water does the City produce *per day*? An average of 4,100,000 gallons (4.1 million) per day and during peak production times such as the summer, an average of 5.6 million gallons per day!

I LIKE PAUL

DIANA KENNEY

Paul W. Rauhut was a community leader. In his time, he was greatly admired for his tireless efforts to improve our Crystal Lake community.

Paul W. Rauhut was born April 3, 1889 in Chicago. His mother died shortly after giving birth, but Paul was adopted by his uncle and aunt, Paul L. & Minnie Rauhut. The family lived in Crystal Lake, as Paul L. worked as Foreman of the Pressing Department at American Terra Cotta & Ceramic Co.

Young Paul grew up in our community. In 1910, he married a local girl, Ida Lindahl. Like his adopted father, Paul W. held a responsible position at the American Terra Cotta factory. Eventually, he would leave ATC&C and enter the comparatively young automobile business, operating a Ford garage under the name of Kroeger and Rauhut.

In 1931, Paul applied for a building permit to construct a filling station, which would be located on property he owned on Virginia Street, just east of Dole Avenue. He had a short commute, as he and Ida lived in the house next door to the proposed filling station. The building permit provides this description: "Cement block construction, asphalt shingles, gable roof, heat and hot water and in fact all modern conveniences. From 3,600 to 4,000 feet will be covered by the concrete driveways. There will be three oil pumps and the Phillips 66 line will be used."

Rauhut's station was called, "Paul's Lubritorium", a big name indicating he also offered oil changes. Up until then, Phillips 66 gas stations were mostly found in the Southwest. Phillips put on a big advertising campaign and made drivers wonder whether this gasoline was as good as its sellers claimed. Business was strong and stayed that way due to Paul's speedy and friendly service.

While he was a successful businessman, Paul was also a pillar within the community. As a member of the First Congregational Church, he helped to organize an early library, predecessor to today's public library. In 1913, he was elected president of the Village of Crystal Lake and served in that capacity until the two villages of Crystal Lake and Nunda combined to become the City of Crystal Lake in 1914. Paul was a member of the Nunda Masonic Lodge, having served as Grand Master in 1929. Paul was elected to the Board of Education of the Crystal Lake Community High School, serving as Board President from 1931-1933.



Paul Rauhut "at your service"

Beyond all the credentials, Paul W. Rauhut was a personable man who loved to smile and talk to people. Perhaps that was the key to his Lubritorium's success and the often heard phrase, "I Like Paul".



Paul's Lubritorium was located near today's 454 Virginia Street

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

Clearly
CRYSTAL LAKE



The City of Crystal Lake is pleased to unveil the first wave of commercial tenants set to open at the highly anticipated Water's Edge development, a dynamic new hub located along Northwest Highway in the heart of Crystal Lake's thriving commercial corridor. Leading the lineup is First Watch, a nationally recognized daytime café known for its chef-driven breakfast, brunch, and lunch offerings made with fresh ingredients. Joining First Watch is BBQ King Smokehouse, a regional favorite bringing bold, smoky flavors and a curated selection of craft beers to the area. Additionally, CAVA will be adding its first McHenry County location bringing Mediterranean-inspired cuisine to Crystal Lake. Adding a sweet note to the development is Menchie's Frozen Yogurt, a family-friendly dessert spot offering a wide variety of self-serve frozen yogurt flavors and toppings. Rounding out the initial tenant list is America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses, a national eyewear boutique providing affordable vision care, stylish frames, and comprehensive eye exams.

Water's Edge is positioned to become a cornerstone of Crystal Lake's continued commercial growth, offering a mix of dining, retail, and service-based tenants with convenient access and high visibility. The development is expected to attract additional businesses as construction progresses. The City will continue to announce future tenants as they are confirmed, with openings anticipated to begin in 2026.

Business Corner

Are you a business in Crystal Lake? If so, this information is for you! The City of Crystal Lake is excited to launch a new quarterly business newsletter dedicated to keeping our local businesses informed and engaged. Each issue will be a go-to resource for updates, tools and support designed to help your business thrive. Issues will feature new businesses, share upcoming events and resources to support your growth. The City's goal is to strengthen connections within the business community and highlight the many ways Crystal Lake is thriving.

Go to www.crystallake.org and scroll down to the bottom of the page for the eNotification sign-up. You may also email hmaieritsch@crystallake.org with your name, business name and email, and City staff will add you to the Quarterly Newsletter emails.

Public Arts Commission Update

The Public Arts Commission (PAC) has been working to add art throughout the community. You may have noticed signs within the landscape planters in Downtown Crystal Lake – these feature a unique haiku written by students from Husmann Elementary School. The PAC is excited to continue to feature student works of art with new haikus throughout the year.

The haiku pictured to the right states:

As warm as a star
Is the meaning of a heart
Even while apart



Community Bench Program

The PAC launched a bench program featuring artwork. This program is a fundraiser for the PAC to help provide grants for future art projects. The benches will be placed in Downtown Crystal Lake for one year. Be sure to take a walk around and explore the artwork on display in Downtown Crystal Lake.



CALENDAR | SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday, September 1
City Offices Closed

Tuesday, September 2
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 3
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Thursday, September 4
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 10
Public Arts Commission Meeting
8:00 A.M.

Tuesday, September 16
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 17
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, September 17
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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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.