City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Fire Rescue Open House

Join the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department on Saturday, October 4th, for the annual Open House event! Spend the morning tackling an obstacle course, spraying a fire hose, exploring a fire truck, watching a technical rescue, and more! This free, family friendly event starts at 9:00 a.m. and runs until noon at Station One, located at 100 W. Woodstock Street.

Donations for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry will be accepted at the event. Any donations would be greatly appreciated! We can't wait to see you there!

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Fire Prevention Week: October 5 - 11, 2025

This year's fire prevention week theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home!" Lithium-ion batteries are used to power many different kinds of electronics you may find around your home. From smartphones and laptops to smoke alarms, toys, and cars, lithium-ion batteries power them all! If these batteries are damaged or not used properly, they can catch on fire or explode. If you notice an odor, a change in color, too much heat, a change in shape, leaking, or odd noises, stop using the battery immediately. Do not dispose of lithium-ion batteries in the trash; instead, take them to a designated battery recycling location. The McHenry County Green Guide provides a directory of acceptable recycling locations: https://www.mchenry.edu/green/green-guide.pdf

Read up on a few safety tips from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to the right.

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or the device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit or above 105 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Source: NFPA



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

Halloween Safety

As Halloween approaches, it's important to keep safety in mind while enjoying the festivities. From candy to costumes, Halloween is always filled with fun activities. To help ensure a safe holiday, here are some tips:

- Review with children how to call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost.
- Walk on sidewalks and stay in well-lit areas.
- Make sure that everyone understands they should stay with the group.
- Help your children check their candy. Discard any items with torn or punctured packaging.
- Be cautious around roadways. Cross streets at crosswalks, obey traffic signals, and look both ways before crossing.
- If you plan on attending an event where alcohol is served, be sure to plan a safe ride home.

Halloween Events

Join the Crystal Lake Police Department for some early Halloween fun at the Crystal Lake Park District's event at Main Beach (300 Lakeshore Drive) on Saturday, October 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to noon! This free event is open to all ages- rain or shine. Wear your costume and bring a treat bag to collect goodies from trucks and other community organization displays, including us! We look forward to seeing you there.



Trick-or-Treating Hours

Halloween is on Friday, October 31st. The recommended hours for Trick-or-Treating in Crystal Lake are 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Halloween.



City Ordinance 496-109 All Night Parking

The ordinance states, "No person, except physicians or emergency calls, shall park any vehicle for a period of time longer than 30 minutes between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. of any day on any streets in the municipality."

Approval for overnight street parking is available upon request. To obtain permission to park on the street overnight, please visit the City of Crystal Lake's website and search for 'Overnight Parking.' You may also use https://www.frontlinepss.com/crystallake. This will take you to a page that will guide you through providing essential information, including your location and vehicle details.

National School Bus Safety Week: October 20-24, 2025

As we observe National School Bus Safety Week, it's important to remember the rules of the road when it comes to school buses. Here are some essential tips for drivers:

- **Stop for school buses**: Always stop when a school bus is loading or unloading children, indicated by its extended stop sign and flashing red lights.
- **Stay alert**: Watch for children near bus stops and be cautious in school zones. Stay focused and avoid distractions.
- **Obey speed limits**: Follow speed limits, especially in school zones and residential areas where children are more likely to be present.

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Know what to do in different road scenarios:

- On a two-lane road, if a school bus has its stop arm out, all lanes must stop.
- On a multi-lane, one-way street, if a school bus has its stop arm out, all lanes must stop.
- On a four-lane road, if a school bus has its stop arm out, all lanes heading the direction of the bus must stop.



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!

2025 Water Rate Increase

In November, residents will see a change to the amounts charged for water and sewer on their monthly utility bills. The 3% increase was approved as part of the budget. The first monthly bill impacted by the increase will be the November bill which reflects September water consumption. Even with the increase, Crystal Lake rates continue to remain comparable with neighboring communities.

The City of Crystal Lake uses user fees to fund the community's water and wastewater operations, including five water treatment plants and two wastewater treatment facilities as well as the network of water mains, sanitary sewers, and storm sewers. If residents have questions about their utility bills, please contact the City's Finance Department at 815-459-2020 or email finance@crystallake.org.

Water Rate	Previous	New	Difference
Monthly Service Charge	$8.68	$8.94	$0.26
Each 1,000 Gallons	$5.91	$6.09	$0.18
Sewer Rate	**Previous**	**New**	**Difference**
Monthly Service Charge	$10.36	$10.67	$0.31
Each 1,000 Gallons	$5.92	$6.10	$0.18

Average Monthly Consumption	Previous Monthly Bill	New Monthly Bill	Difference
4,000 Gallons Per Month	$66.36	$68.37	$2.01
10,000 Gallons Per Month	$137.34	$141.51	$4.17

Senior citizen discount will remain at 20% on the first 5,000 gallons used each month

Fall Leaf Collection

Raking leaves into the street is a violation of City Code and can lead to blocked storm drains. To help dispose of leaves, the City's Annual Fall Leaf Pick-up Program will begin Monday, October 6th and will continue until Friday, December 12th. Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) crews will collect bagged leaves placed at the curbside in front of residential homes along public streets. Bags must be placed in the parkway before 7:00 a.m. on residents' regular refuse collection day.

Leaves can only be placed in biodegradable paper bags or resident-owned waste bins clearly marked for leaf disposal in order to be collected. Paper leaf bags are available at local grocery and hardware stores. The City and Lakeshore Recycling Systems do not provide leaf bags. There is a 50-pound maximum weight limit per bag. Please be aware that wet leaves will add to the weight of the bag. Leaves placed in containers such as plastic bags, unmarked waste bins, boxes, or in bags too large for one person to handle will not be accepted.

To contact Lakeshore Recycling Systems with any questions, please call their customer service number (844) 633-3577 or visit their website at www.lrsrecycles.com.



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



THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Off-Season Hours of Operation

Park Hours: Open daily, 6:30 a.m. to sunset year-round.

Trails & Shoreline Fishing: The park and trails will be open daily throughout the fall and winter. The East Trail is accessible at the southern end of the park, extending from the marina building. The West Trail is accessible near the Lake House entrance. Multiple shelters and picnic tables are available on each trail, along with convenient shoreline fishing locations.



Thank You!

As the 2025 season draws to an end, we want to thank our incredible team of Marina Attendants, Lifeguards, and Managers for their contribution and dedication to making Three Oaks Recreation Area a fantastic experience for all. In addition, we would like to extend our appreciation to the staff at The Cottage on the Beach, The Board House, and The Quarry Cable Park for their contributions and services.







Lake Loop Trail Progress Update

The Lake Loop Trail is a 3.4 mile pedestrian-only path that will traverse the entire lake. The trail is scheduled to open in the Spring of 2026. Below is a map of the entire loop trail, broken into seven segments. Additionally, below are pictures of different segments with descriptions of where the current progress of each area is at. To stay up to date on further progress of the trail, visit our website at https://bit.ly/4gBLgBW. This will include additional pictures, descriptions of current construction updates on all seven segments, and aerial video footage of portions of the trail.





Segment 1: Pingree Road

Segment 1, is open to the halfway point. If you come upon a barricade within the path, please turn around as there is active construction taking place ahead. For your safety, please stay off of any unfinished trails.



Segment 2: Rakow Road

Safety railing for the trail has been installed. The aggregate base is mostly complete.



Segment 4: Switchback

Safety railing for the trail has been installed. Most of the trail surface is complete. The switchback portion of the trail has been seeded and erosion control blanket has been installed.



Segment 7

This portion of the trail runs parallel to the Main Street entrance road. The contractor is focusing on installation of fence, along with top soil and seeding.

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

Clearly
CRYSTAL LAKE

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce - 85 Years

Congratulations to the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce on serving the business community for 85 years! For more information about the Chamber, visit https://www.clchamber.com/.



CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

DIANA KENNEY

In 1965, an idea was born to establish a combination daycare and preschool program in Crystal Lake. That idea grew into an institution called Friendship House.

Members of the Women's Fellowship group at First Congregational Church (FCC) saw the need for working mothers to have a safe, reliable and loving place for their children while mom was at work. They also recognized that this created an educational opportunity for those young children.

After presenting the idea to the church council and senior minister, Rev. M.J.A. Dalrymple, the ladies gained approval to move forward with their program. The church already owned a house on Florence Street, and it was decided that house would be remodeled for the new daycare/preschool program and would become known as "Friendship House".

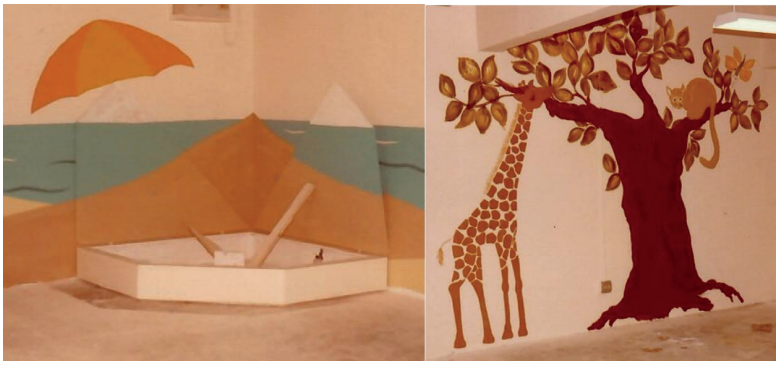
It took about $1,500 and a whole bunch of volunteer hours to make Friendship House ready for business. The daycare opened in October 1965 and was immediately filled to capacity with 25 children. A November 4th advertisement in the Crystal Lake Herald indicates the Nursery School program was ready to accept students. The program was geared to children ages 3 and 4. The program ran from 9AM to 11:30AM. Tuition for a 5-day week was $20 per month. Tuition for a 3-day week was $15 per month.

The director of Friendship House was Marlene Dannehy. According to church member Ginny Emery, "Marlene gave her life in faithful service to the children and the community. She laid the practical, hands-on foundation upon which Friendship House began and grew."

In 1971, Friendship House expanded its program for before-and-after school care. Teachers that year included Carol Rhodes, Judy Nepil, Helen Grant and Marlene Dannehy. Throughout the 1970s, the need for additional space increased with the demand for good, quality daycare.

In 1977, First Congregational Church made the bold move to purchase the old St. Mary's Seminary (CL Country Club and Dole Mansion) property. The building was renamed, "Lakeside Center" and provided space for church activities, community activities, and room for Friendship House to expand and grow. By now, the director for Friendship House was Priscilla LaSarre.

Church members put in thousands of volunteer hours to transform most of the lower level of Lakeside Center into a new home for Friendship House. Each room was given a name (Beach Room, Tree House Room, etc.) and decorated accordingly.



Wall murals painted by volunteers in the Beach Room and Tree House Room.

Although Friendship House was initially a program of FCC, it later became incorporated as its own non-profit organization. The program was funded by tuitions, fundraisers and United Way support, which provided scholarships for families in need who could not afford the tuition.

Cheryl Rudd became director of Friendship House in the early 1990s. Cheryl recently retired after 30+ years of service to the program. Under her

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leadership, Friendship House made another big move from Lakeside Center to the University Center (now Willow Creek Church) at the corner of Main Street and Crystal Lake Avenue.

Over the past 60 years, thousands of children have benefitted from the love, support and learning opportunities provided at Friendship House. Many thanks to that first group of women who saw a need, came up with a solution, and made it happen!

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

Fall Happenings

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



CALENDAR | OCTOBER 2025

Wednesday, October 1
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 2
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
3:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 7
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 9
Youth Commission Meeting
4:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 15
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 15
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 21
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, October 28
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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100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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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.