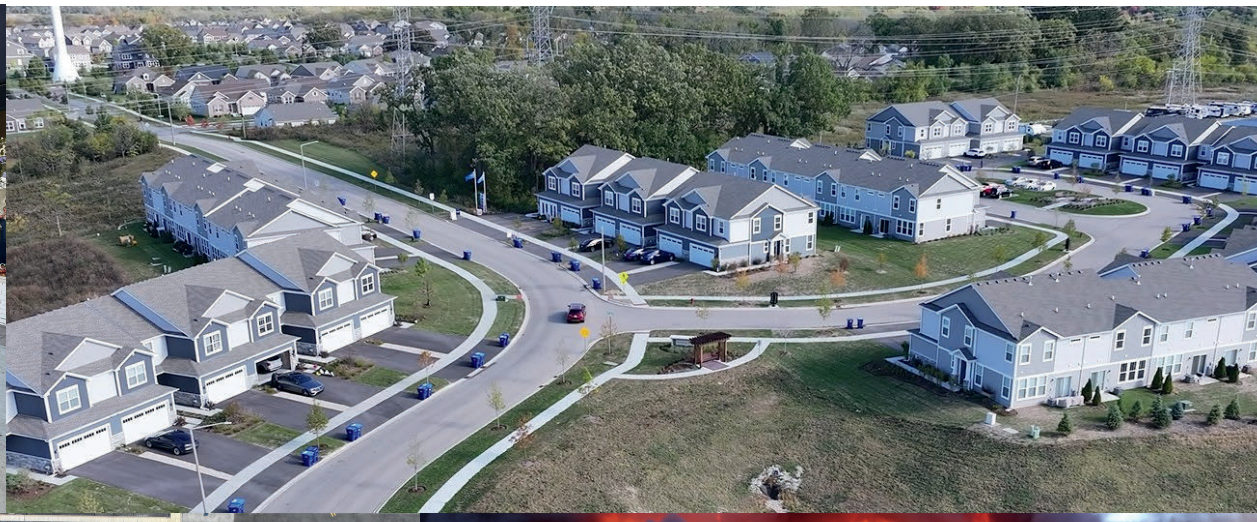
City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER









Annual State of the Community Video

The City of Crystal Lake would like to present the Annual State of the Community video which highlights accomplishments from the last year and provides an overview of projects and developments planned for 2026. The video debuts at the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce State of the Community on February 6th and can be found on the City's website following the event.

The video features businesses, the City, School Districts 47 and 155, the Crystal Lake Park District, and McHenry County College. To view the video, please visit City's website after February 6th and type 'State of the Community' in the search bar.

Burn Awareness Week Page 3

Safety Town Page 5

Engineers Week Page 7

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

Shop Local, Dine Well: Discover Crystal Lake This February

February is the perfect time to rediscover what makes Crystal Lake such a special place to shop and dine. Whether you're planning a cozy night out, searching for a unique gift, or simply looking to support local businesses, Crystal Lake offers a vibrant mix of locally owned shops and restaurants that bring character, creativity, and connection to our community.

Looking for a way to celebrate Valentine's Day or simply enjoy quality time with friends and family? A night out in Crystal Lake is a great way to do just that. Pair dinner at a local restaurant with dessert or coffee nearby, or explore downtown before or after your meal to make an evening of it. Supporting local dining helps keep Crystal Lake's culinary scene thriving and welcoming. Shopping and dining locally has a ripple effect that benefits the entire community. Local businesses create jobs, support community events, and contribute to the unique identity of Crystal Lake. Every visit, purchase, and meal helps strengthen our local economy and keeps our city vibrant.

This February, make it a point to explore Crystal Lake with fresh eyes. Try a new restaurant, revisit a favorite shop, or invite a friend to discover something new.

There's always something to experience, clearly, in Crystal Lake.

Also, be on the lookout for our new scavenger hunt on social media! Find the Cup of Cocoa and cozy up in Crystal Lake! It's a fun way to explore local businesses, engage with the community, and add a little extra warmth to your February and March adventures.

New and Expanding Businesses Now Open

Mystic Paws Academy - 140 W. Terra Cotta Avenue

Distorted Soda and Sandwiches - 135 N. Main Street

D1 Sports Training - 6107 Northwest Highway

Rockin' the Spectrum - 7105 S Virginia Road Units 11 and 13

www.facebook.com/clearlycrystallake
www.instagram.com/clearlycrystallake/

WaterSmart Portal

Have you had your water meter replaced? If so, you can sign up for the free WaterSmart portal! This web-based portal allows each resident to view and manage their water usage. Customers will be able to better understand their water bills, sign up for customized alerts, and get notified in real time about high water use that could be from leaks. WaterSmart can walk you through steps you should take to resolve any leaks before potentially reaching out for professional help.

Registering is easy, just go to:
http://crystallakeil.watersmart.com.

Then, simply follow these next steps:

- Use your account number listed on your water bill as your registration code.
- Answer the simple profile survey to provide accurate comparisons to similar households.

Scan the QR code to watch a helpful video on how to navigate your account in the portal!

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Burn Awareness Week

Burn awareness week starts on February 1st. This year's theme is, "Preventing Burns Where You Work." A risk of a burn injury exists in every workplace. The next time you are at work, take a moment to study your surroundings. Identify where a potential burn injury could take place.

Burn injuries are a significant public health issue, with over 398,000 people in the United States receiving medical attention for burns in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Use the following checklist from the American Burn Association to help prevent burn injuries in your workplace:

Identify Hazards in Your Space

- Spot burn risks where they happen such as hot equipment, electrical panels, fuel storage, chemicals, and cooking areas. Address issues early.

Review Safety Gear & PPE

- Check that personal protective equipment is available, in good condition, and appropriate for the tasks at hand. Replace damaged gear properly.

Practice Emergency Procedures

- Ensure exits are clear, alarms are working, and staff knows what to do in the event of fires, chemical exposures, or equipment failures.

Train Regularly

- Conduct safety refreshers throughout the year so new and long-time team members understand burn risks and prevention tips.

Maintain Equipment & Work Areas

- Service vehicles, tools, kitchen appliances, machinery, and heating devices regularly to prevent fires, overheating, or malfunctions.

Stay Alert Around Heat Sources

- Watch for hot surfaces, open flames, steam, engines, batteries, and high-temperature equipment. Simple awareness prevents accidents.

Store Hazardous Materials Safely

- Keep fuels, chemicals, gases, and flammables in approved containers with proper ventilation.

Source: American Burn Association



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

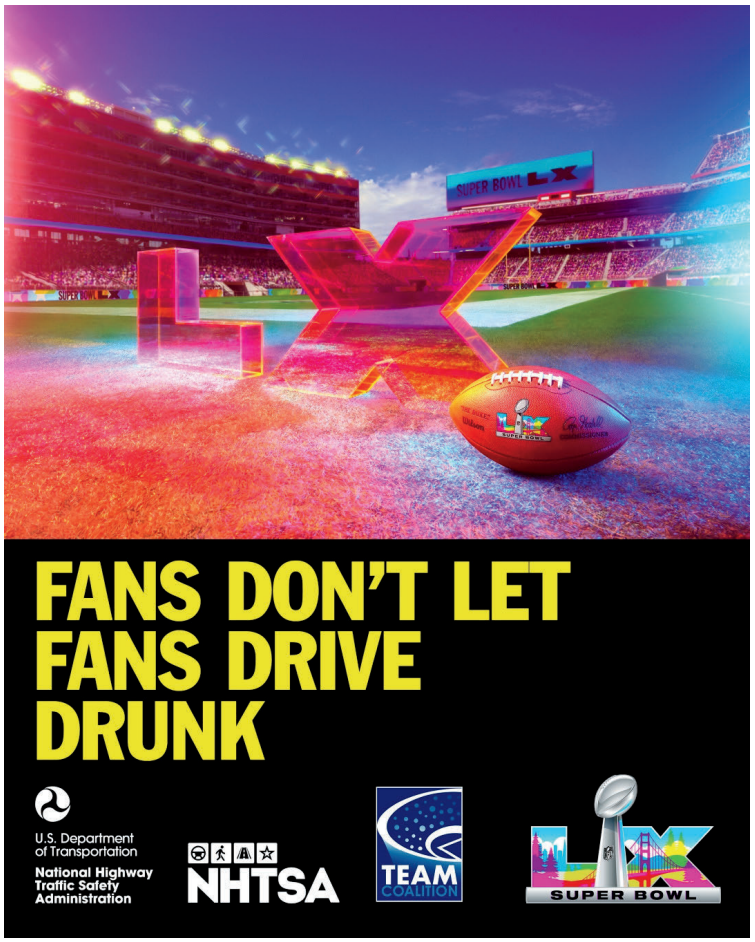
Super Bowl

The Super Bowl is one of the biggest celebrations of the year, but it's important to plan ahead to ensure everyone gets home safely. Impaired driving puts lives at risk, and the Crystal Lake Police Department is committed to keeping the roads safe.

Here are a few tips for a safe and enjoyable game day:

- **Designate a driver**: If you're drinking, make sure to have a sober driver lined up or use a rideshare service.
- **Watch for pedestrians**: Be cautious, especially near bars or party venues where pedestrians may be crossing the street unexpectedly.
- **Report Impaired Drivers**: If you see someone driving dangerously, call 911 and provide as much detail as possible about the vehicle and location.

Remember, buzzed driving is drunk driving. Let's work together to make sure everyone gets home safely. Enjoy the game and stay safe!



Polar Plunge

The Polar Plunge to benefit the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is coming back to Main Beach on March 1st at noon!

To register or help support the Crystal Lake Police Department's team, scan the QR code with your phone or use the following link. Any support is appreciated. We hope to see you out there!

https://support.soill.org/event/2026-letr-polar-plunge-crystal-lake-region-b/e738563

Safety Town

The Crystal Lake Police Department is excited to launch Safety Town; a fun and educational program designed for children ages 4 or 5, or entering Kindergarten in the upcoming school year. The week - long program will take place beginning June 15th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. each day. The program will feature interactive lessons and guest visitors teaching important safety topics, all hosted at the Crystal Lake Police Department.

Registration is now open! Parents can sign their child up by visiting the City website and scrolling to the the bottom of the page at:

https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/police/community-services-and-programs

You may also contact Officer Kelci McGrath at (815) 356-3755 or email kmcgrath@crystallake.org to register.

Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620
Officer Kelci McGrath - (815) 356-3755 or kmcgrath@crystallake.org

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

Curbside Electronics Collection Event: March 2 - 6

LRS will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of March 2 - 6, 2026. 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 September 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 Toys	Smoke and Fire Detectors
Coffee Makers	Packaging Materials
Computer Disks	Microwaves
Dishwashers	Water Softeners

The next electronics collection event will take place in September.

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Employment

Applications are being accepted to join us this 2026 season! Seasonal Lifeguards, Cashiers, and Marina Attendant roles are available. For position details, visit the City of Crystal Lake Human Resources Employment page and complete an employment application today!

Pavilion Rental Reservations

The City is now accepting pavilion reservations for 2026! Guests can book their rental through the online portal at threeoakscl.recdesk.com which can be found on the City's website.

All pavilion details and related FAQ forms are available on the website under the Pavilion Rentals tab. Should you have any questions, please contact City staff at (815) 459-2020 ext. 4288.

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: Linda Lipecki



Photo By: Rare Love Film

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

Engineers Week

February 22-28, 2026, marks Engineers Week. This year's theme is, "Transform Your Future", celebrating today's accomplishments and inspiring progress towards a more innovative future.

During this week, the City of Crystal Lake would like to recognize the dedicated staff of the City's Engineering Division within the Public Works Department. The Engineering Division is responsible for managing capital improvement projects, addressing drainage and flooding issues, and overseeing traffic and roadway systems.



The City's engineers develop crucial programs such as the annual resurfacing program. This is where the City monitors road conditions and annually develops the resurfacing program to repair streets that have deteriorated and are in need of repair. The repairs consist of removing the top layer of asphalt, making spot repairs to the exposed base, and then putting a new surface back on the street. A big thank you to our Engineering Division for their hard work, and making a lasting impact on our community!



CALENDAR | FEBRUARY 2026

Monday, February 2
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
4:30 P.M.

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

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

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

Monday, February 16
City Hall Closed - Presidents' Day

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

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

Wednesday, February 18
Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, February 18
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

City Hall
(Non-Emergency)
815-459-2020

www.crystallake.org

Commercial Use or any reproductions of any materials contained in this newsletter is prohibited without permission of the City of Crystal Lake

City of Crystal Lake
100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Crystal Lake, IL
Permit No. 29

Go green by signing up for the City's Newsletter electronically.

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 Newsletter, please email City staff at comments@crystallake.org.

If you have questions or concerns for specific City departments, please contact the following:

City Manager's Office	(815) 459-2020	Option 5
Community Development Department	(815) 356-3605	
Finance Department	(815) 459-2020	Option 0
Fire Rescue Department	(815) 356-3640	
Human Resources Department	(815) 459-2020	Option 7
Police Department	(815) 356-3620	
Public Works and Engineering Department	(815) 356-3614	