City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Coming Soon: New Utility Billing Payment Software

The City of Crystal Lake will be rolling out a new online payment portal to make paying bills and fees easier and more convenient for residents. While the updated system will have a slightly different look, all payments will continue to be safe, secure, and easy to complete. This upgrade is part of the City's ongoing effort to improve services and provide a better overall experience for the community.

During the transition, access to the online payment portal may be temporarily limited as the new system is put in place. The City is working to keep any disruptions as short as possible and appreciates residents' patience during this time.

Residents with questions or who need assistance are encouraged to contact the Finance Department at (815) 459-2020. Staff will be available to help and provide guidance throughout the process. The City of Crystal Lake thanks the community for its understanding as these improvements are made.

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Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service

The City of Crystal Lake Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 25, 2026.

The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at Central High School and runs east on Franklin Avenue, north on Williams Street, and west on Woodstock Street to Union Cemetery, where a Memorial Service is held.

Erica J. Borrgren will be the keynote speaker at this year's ceremony. Borrgren, a 1998 McHenry Community High School Graduate, currently serves as Vice-President, Customer Strategy at Exelon Corporation. She is a Rhodes Scholar and West Point graduate, and a former Army captain who served in Iraq, the Republic of Korea, and throughout the U.S. Central Command region in the Middle East.

Upon finishing her service, Borrgren served as Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and acting Secretary of the Illinois Department of Transportation before moving to the private sector. She also helped launch Illinois Joining Forces, to help Illinois Veterans and their families.

Parade Participant Application (See Page 3 for Instructions)

VETERANS

Name of Individual/Group: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Branch of Service: _____

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Name of Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Type of Unit: _____ Number of Participants: _____

Indemnity/Hold Harmless for Use of City-Owned Property
To the fullest extent permitted by law, the undersigned hereby agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees, against all injuries, deaths, loss, damages, claims, suits, liabilities, judgements, cost and expenses (including attorney fees), which may in any way accrue against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents and employees arising in whole or part or in consequence of the use of City-owned property by the undersigned, its employees, agents, subcontractors, and/or 3rd party, or in which may in anyway result therefore, except that arising out of the sole legal cause of the City of Crystal Lake, its agents or employees. The User of City-owned property shall, at its own expense, appear, defend and pay all charges of attorneys and all costs and other expenses arising therefore or incurred in connections therewith, and, if any judgment shall be rendered against the City of Crystal Lake, its elected and appointed officials, agents, and employees, in any such action, the User shall, at its own expense, satisfy and discharge the same.

Agreed this _____ day of _____, 20_____

_____ _____

(Signature of User) (Please Print Name)

Continued from Page 2

As a reminder, the Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery Service is a solemn event intended to honor veterans and those who have given their lives for their country. Please do not distribute candy or fliers during the parade and please keep marching units and floats consistent with the nature of this event.

This event is weather dependent. The individual listed on the application will be your organization's day-of contact should the City need to notify those of any weather-related changes via email. If you are interested in participating in the parade, please complete the application on Page 2 and submit to mgray@crystallake.org by Friday, May 15, 2026.



Know the Rules: Electric Bikes and Scooters

As bicycles and electric-powered rides grow in popularity, the City of Crystal Lake reminds residents to follow local safety rules. Whether riding a traditional bike, e-bike, or scooter, understanding the guidelines helps keep everyone safe.

E-bikes, or low-speed electric bicycles, are allowed on streets and bike paths but not on sidewalks. Riders must be at least 16 years old and follow all traffic laws. These bikes are divided into three classes and cannot exceed 750 watts of motor power.

Electric scooters have different regulations. Riders must be at least 18 years old and may only ride on streets with speed limits under 35 mph. Sidewalk use is prohibited, and only one rider is allowed per scooter.

Safety is key. While helmets are not required, the Crystal Lake Police Department strongly encourages them. Night riders must use a white front light and a red rear reflector for visibility.

Parents must ensure that younger riders understand the rules. Violations may result in fines of $50 or more, and vehicles could be impounded.

By following these guidelines, residents can enjoy riding while helping keep Crystal Lake's streets safe for everyone. Visit the City website at https://bit.ly/4rMPZGh for more information.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Police Week

National Police Week is May 10th-16th, 2026! In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as Police Week. National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

Click It or Ticket Memorial Day Campaign

From May 11th to May 31st, the Crystal Lake Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of all motorists on our roads. We will be joining other law enforcement agencies across Illinois in the Click It or Ticket campaign, where we will be conducting extra patrols to enforce seat belt laws and promote safe driving practices.

One of the simplest and most effective ways to protect yourself and your passengers is by buckling up. Whether you are going on a long road trip or just running a quick errand, remember to always wear your seat belt. It's not just the law; it's one of the safest choices you can make behind the wheel. Help us spread this message by sharing with friends and family members.

Safety Town Deadline

Safety Town is right around the corner! Starting June 15th, children ages 4–5 years old (or those entering kindergarten this fall) are invited to join us at the Police Department for a week of fun, learning, and hands-on activities. During the program, kids will learn important safety lessons—such as pedestrian safety, bike safety, and how to stay safe in their community—all in an engaging and age-appropriate environment.

The deadline to register is May 30th, so be sure to sign up soon to reserve your child's spot. Any questions can be directed to Ofc. Kelci McGrath at (815) 356 - 3620 or kmcgrath@crystallake.org. The registration form and additional details can be found on our website: https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/police/community-services-and-programs

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

Stroke Awareness Month

When it comes to a stroke, time is of the essence. Every second counts. Quick medical intervention is a crucial factor in stroke outcomes. Rapid treatment can mean the difference between a strong recovery, long-term disability, or death.

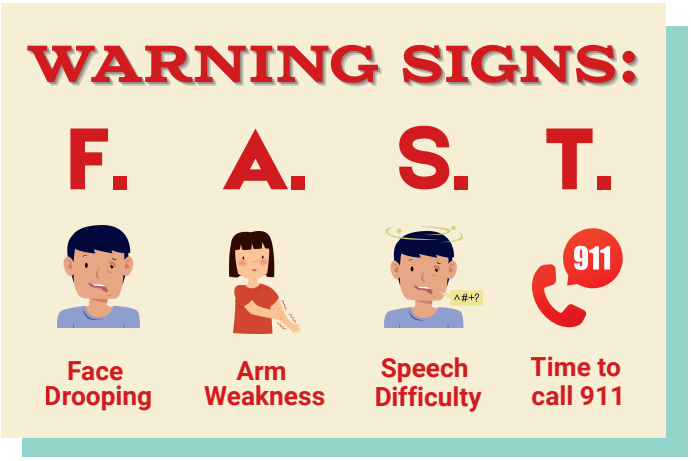
Fact 1: A stroke kills brain cells.

Fact 2: Approximately one in four people who survive a stroke are at risk for another.

Fact 3: Time lost is brain lost. Acting quickly is essential.

In the U.S., someone has a stroke every 40 seconds. A person may experience a stroke at any time or place, and at any age.

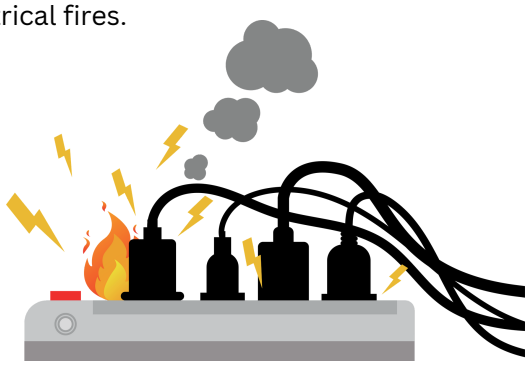
It is important to learn the warning signs of a stroke.



Source: American Stroke Association

Electrical Safety

May is National Electrical Safety Month! While electricity is a central component of everyday life, there are dangers that come with its use. Being proactive when it comes to safety can help prevent electrical fires.



Things to know:

- Appliances such as dryers, stoves, or refrigerators should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.
- Extension cords should not be used to operate major appliances. Such use can cause the cord to overheat and start a fire.
- When small appliances like coffee makers are not in use, unplug them.
- Never overload a power strip.
- Dispose of any appliances that have damaged, frayed, or cracked cords.

Sources: NFPA.org & U.S. Fire Administration

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

Lifeguarding Team: Applications Open!

Applications to be a lifeguard at Three Oaks Recreation Area are still open! Lifeguards provide a safe environment for guests enjoying the beach. This position provides a fun and team-friendly atmosphere.

If you are interested in joining our lifeguard team, please visit the City of Crystal Lake website to complete an application from the Human Resources page.

Calendar Reminders and Open Water Swim Times

May

- Weekdays: The Marina will tentatively open on the weekdays starting in mid-May.
- Weekends: The Marina will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., weather permitting.
- May 23: The Swim Beach opens at 10:00 a.m. for the season, weather permitting.

June & July

- Open Water Swim opens for Thursday evening and Saturday mornings. There will be no Open Water Swims on July 4th due to the holiday.



Open Water Swim at Three Oaks Recreation Area Beach is held Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Staff will set up an 850-meter triangular course with buoy markers and supervise from kayaks or paddle boards. Swimmers of all levels can go at their own pace and complete as many laps as they'd like during each session.

Open Water Swim Thursdays – 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

- June 4, 11, 18, & 25
- July 2, 9, 16, & 23

Open Water Swim Saturdays – 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

- June 6, 13, 20, & 27
- July 11, 18, & 25

Guest Photo Submission

Share your favorite Three Oaks Recreation Area summer photos as we look ahead to warmer weather! With permission, submitted photos may be featured in the City's Newsletter with proper credit. Send submissions to threeoaks@crystallake.org

Photo by Kay Adams





2026 Brush Pick-up and Drop-Off Schedule

Annual brush pick-up will run from May 11th - June 5th. The map below designates which dates brush will be collected in your area. Please have brush placed at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the Monday of your pick-up week. Brush must be six inches or less in diameter and six feet or less in length to be accepted. Pickup dates are subject to change due to weather events.

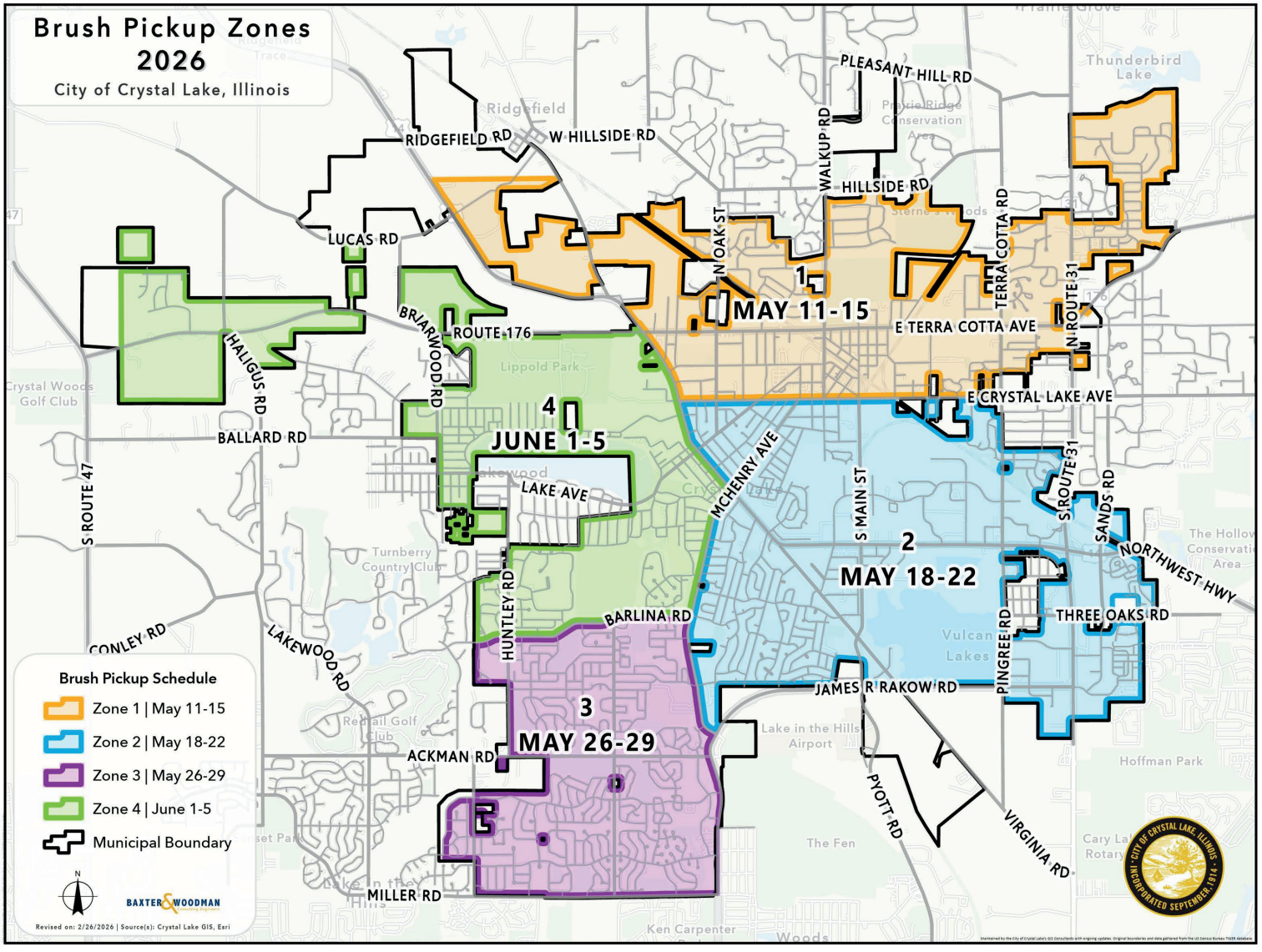
City crews will make a single collection pass on each street, so please ensure your brush is at the curb on time to avoid missing out. For your convenience, any brush not placed at the curb on time may also be taken to the City's Brush Drop-Off Site, located at 410 S. Main Street. The site is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., April through November.

Zone 1 – May 11 - 15
North of Crystal Lake Avenue and East of US Route 14

Zone 2 - May 18 - 22
South of Crystal Lake Avenue and East of US Route 14 and McHenry Avenue

Zone 3 - May 26 - 29
South of Barlina Road and West of McHenry Avenue and Randall Road

Zone 4 – June 1 - 5
North of Barlina Road and West of US Route 14 and McHenry Avenue



STATTER WALL PAPER MILLS

DIANA KENNEY

The Statter Wall Paper Mills operated at the same location on Main Street for over a half century. You could say they had "quite a run" (in business and in wallpaper)!

In 1936, Christopher Statter signed a lease on the old Public Service Company Building at 400 S. Main Street. Statter had plans to move his wallpaper manufacturing business and thirty-five jobs from Norwood Park to Crystal Lake. Statter Wall Paper Mills was incorporated in 1929.



Christopher Statter was born January 23, 1894 in England. In 1914, Christopher immigrated to the United States. Four years later, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and fought in WWI. He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1919. Christopher married Edith Williams and the couple would have three children. The Statter family lived in Joliet, even after the business moved to Crystal Lake.

Statter Wallpaper Mills manufactured a high grade wallpaper product. The September 10, 1936 Crystal Lake Herald offers this description of the manufacturing process:

"The paper is purchased in large rolls and this is put on the printing presses. As the rolls are printed, the paper is allowed to dry on racks from the presses to the other end of the large building where it is re-rolled."

"The method of forming designs for the paper is also another work of interest. Hand-etched rollers are used to make the impression on paper. Embossing gives the finishing touch to the paper."



Large printing press roll would be used to print wallpaper.

The article continues, "There is room for mixing ink for the various colors, a conveyor and all other equipment to make the plant up to date and modern. The business is on a firm footing and employment is steady. Present employees are skilled workers with experience in the business but more workers will be employed later when all machinery is installed."

Perhaps it was always Christopher Statter's plan to purchase the manufacturing facility and bring his family to live in Crystal Lake. If so, this plan was cut short in 1941, when at the age of 47, Christopher Statter passed away.

After Mr. Statter's death, his widow Edith assumed the role of company president. In 1943, Edith Statter moved her family from Joliet to Crystal Lake, purchasing the house at 77 Maple Street.

Two years later, the company purchased the building it had occupied for the past nine years on Main Street. The business would continue under family ownership until the early 1990s. During that time, this resilient family business survived a direct hit from the 1965 Palm Sunday tornado and a devastating warehouse fire in 1977. The property was eventually sold to Althoff Industries in 1993.

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

The 26th Annual Heritage Trolley Tour

The 26th Annual Heritage Trolley Tour is on Sunday, June 14. Tickets for the tour are $25 and on sale now online at bit.ly/4sIRxAF or in person at Heisler's Bootery by cash or check. Get yours before they sell out!

Enjoy a 45-minute narrated tour of Crystal Lake Civil War veteran homes, starting at the Colonel Palmer House with reenactors and displays.



CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

New Businesses Now Open

7 Brew - 6280 Northwest Highway

- Drive-thru coffee experience and customizable drinks featuring energy drinks, sodas, coffees, chai and matcha drinks, teas, shakes, smoothies and lemonades.

Vulcan Room - 6228 Northwest Highway

- The Vulcan Room offers therapies designed to rejuvenate the mind, body and soul. Featuring infrared sauna, red light therapy, cold plunge, contrast therapy and halo therapy.

Happy Anniversary!

Andy's Restaurant
45th Business Anniversary



NISRA
50th Business Anniversary



Do you have or know of a business celebrating a major milestone anniversary? If so please let us know at economicdevelopment@crystallake.org

Helping Our Businesses

Do you have a business in Crystal Lake? The City recently rolled out a new Quarterly Economic Development Newsletter for the Business Community. The newsletter includes helpful information, links to grants and other resources. The newsletter is emailed to the business community. If you would like to be added to our list to receive this please send your name, business name and email to economicdevelopment@crystallake.org.



2026 Street Resurfacing Program

The annual street resurfacing program is underway, and the locations included in this year's program are listed in the table shown. The resurfacing program is typically completed in two different phases. First, a concrete contractor will install or upgrade any sidewalk ramps so they meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and perform spot repairs to any curb and sidewalk.

After concrete work is completed at all resurfacing locations throughout the City, the asphalt contractor will begin the asphalt resurfacing process. There can be several weeks between the completion of the concrete work and the start of the asphalt work. This timing allows the contractors to work more efficiently and provide the best cost for the City of Crystal Lake. The resurfacing begins with grinding off the surface of the existing asphalt. For some streets, the asphalt is removed down to the stone base. For streets with removal down to the stone, the stone base is re-graded and compacted to provide a smooth surface for paving. Driveways will be ramped with stone during this time to allow residents access during this phase of the project. Next, the first layer of asphalt is placed over the stone base, or in some cases over the existing asphalt base. The contractor will then adjust any manholes or other utility structures in the roadways to ensure they are set to the appropriate elevation of the new pavement surface. After three to five days of cure time for the manhole adjustments, the road is ready for the final paving surface to be installed. The asphalt grinding and paving usually takes around 10 to 14 days from start to finish, and the new pavement surface should last at least 20 years.

Street	Starting Location	Ending Location
Briarwood Road	Butternut Drive	North Avenue
Briarwood Road	North Avenue	Fair Oaks Avenue
Butternut Drive	Briarwood Road	Heather Drive
Heather Drive	Butternut Drive	Gardina Vista
Mullberry Lane	Heather Drive	Burr Oak Drive
Ivy Lane	Heather Drive	Edgewater Drive
Dolo Rosa Vista	Heather Drive	Edgewater Drive
Floresta Vista	Heather Drive	Edgewater Drive
Gardina Vista	Briarwood Road	Edgewater Drive
Snowberry Lane	Briarwood Road	Edgewater Drive
Barberry Drive	Mulberry Lane	Dolo Rosa Vista
Clover Drive	Mulberry Lane	Edgewater Drive
Edgewater Drive	North Avenue	Dead End
Charlotte Avenue	North Avenue	Fair Oaks Avenue
Millard Avenue	North Avenue	Fair Oaks Avenue
Corrine Avenue	North Avenue	Fair Oaks Avenue
Elmwood Avenue	North Avenue	Fair Oaks Avenue
Gilbert Avenue	Briarwood Road	Elmwood Avenue
Fair Oake Avenue	Briarwood Road	Elmwood Avenue
North Shore	North Shore	Sunnyside Avenue

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) Quick Facts

Yard Waste 101

Lakeshore Recycling Systems (LRS) collects yard waste from the first full week of April until the second full week of December. Residents can put leafy-based, plant-based, or wood-based items in an LRS provided container, a personal container (marked with a X or YW), a disposable paper bag, or tied in bundles. For more information on what is accepted, please visit the City of Crystal Lake website at https://bit.ly/4v6OOEE.



Organics 101

LRS is offering composting to be mixed in with your yard waste. Products such as grains, pasta, coffee grounds, flowers, fruits, vegetables, and shells may be placed in your yard waste bin. Certain paper products such as egg cartons and paper towels are included as well. To find out more about what is considered an organic under this program, please visit the City of Crystal Lake website at https://bit.ly/4v6OOEE.



Sustainability Committee Litter Cleanup Rental Kits

Looking for a warm-weather volunteer opportunity? The Crystal Lake Sustainability Committee makes it easy to help keep the community clean with its Independent Litter Cleanup Rental Program.

Designed with flexibility in mind, the program allows individuals and small groups to borrow fully-equipped cleanup kits and choose a City-owned area they'd like to help maintain. Getting started is simple: participants contact the City, complete a Hold Harmless agreement, review basic safety guidelines, and pick up a kit. Kits are available for a few days at a time, making it easy to fit a cleanup into a busy schedule.

After the cleanup is finished, the City's Public Works Department takes care of collecting the filled garbage and recycling bags, so volunteers don't have to worry about disposal. Participants simply return their kits when they're done. The program is free to use and does not require any long-term commitment.

Whether residents want to give back, enjoy the outdoors, or support their community, the program offers a simple way to make a difference. Participants are encouraged to share photos using #CrystalLakeCleanTeam to inspire others to get involved. Contact Victoria Wojcik at vwojcik@crystallake.org for more information.



CALENDAR | MAY 2026

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

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

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

Wednesday, May 13
Public Arts Commission Meeting
8:00 A.M.

Thursday, May 14
Youth Commission Meeting
4:00 P.M.

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

Wednesday, May 20
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:30 P.M.

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

Monday, May 25
City Offices Closed
Memorial Day Parade and Cemetery 11:00 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

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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 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	