City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Lake Loop Trail Now Open!

The City is excited to share that the Lake Loop Trail at Three Oaks is now open for pedestrians. This 3.2 mile trail allows guests to walk around the entire South Lake. Visitors can enjoy scenic lake views, natural surroundings, and a new opportunity to explore Three Oaks Recreation Area. The trail is a great option for walking, jogging, and enjoying the outdoors with family and friends.

Please note, the Lake Loop Trail is for pedestrians only. Bicycles and/or motorized bicycles or scooters are not allowed on the trail. A map of the trail is located on Page 2.

Lake Loop Trail Map Page 2

Coffee with the Chief Page 4

Summer Weather Hazard Awareness Page 5

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

Lake Loop Trail Map



Open Water Swim

Open Water Swim is described as distanced swimming beyond the boundaries of the regular swim beach on select dates and times only. This is a special session that is in addition to the regular swim beach operation hours.

Registration and check-in begins 60 minutes prior to the scheduled start times. The Open Water Swim fee is $5.00 each session, per participant.

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

Park amenities may close due to inclement weather. This includes, but is not limited to, high winds, anticipated thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, cold temperatures, severe weather, or if our lightning detection system sounds. To stay informed on weather conditions at Three Oaks, please check our Rainout Line.

New Utility Billing Payment Software Now Live

The City of Crystal Lake has successfully transitioned to a new utility billing software vendor. View the City's website at http://bit.ly/3PC7Q5F to learn more information and view your bill.



Small Flags, Large Impact

Across many neighborhoods, small American flags placed in yards and along sidewalks have become a common marketing tactic for realtors, contractors, and advertisers to attach their promotional information onto. While intended to attract attention or show patriotism, these displays often create unintended problems for residents and landscaping crews.

These flags placed in parkways and grassy areas can interfere with lawn maintenance, damage mowing equipment, and become unintentional litter after storms or windy weather. Many eventually end up scattered across streets, sidewalks, and drainage areas.

Beyond the cleanup concerns, the American flag deserves respectful treatment. Disposable marketing use can unintentionally diminish the dignity of a symbol that represents our nation and those who have served it.

Residents are encouraged to consider respectful removal and proper retirement of abandoned or damaged flags through local veterans organizations, VFW posts, American Legion halls, or scout groups. By keeping neighborhoods clean and treating the flag with care, we can support both community pride and responsibility.



Drinking Water Quality Report

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the federal law that protects public drinking water supplies throughout the nation. Under the SDWA, the Environmental Protection Agency sets standards for drinking water quality, and with its partners, implements various technical and financial programs to ensure drinking water safety.

The SDWA requires that all water utilities produce and distribute a water quality report each year, which is also called a Consumer Confidence Report. This report includes a comparison of drinking water test results to federal drinking water standards, information about municipal water sources and an overview of treatment processes.The Crystal Lake Public Works Department is committed to providing safe water to our residents and we are strong supporters of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Crystal Lake Annual Water Quality Report is available at:
https://www.crystallake.org/home/showpublisheddocument/25220

If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please call Public Works at (815) 356 -3614.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Safety Month: Summer Safety Tips

June brings more people outside, whether by walking, biking, or driving. With school out and more people enjoying the sunshine, it's important for everyone to share the road responsibly.

Pedestrian Safety Tips

- Always cross at marked crosswalks or intersections.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing, assume drivers don't see you.
- Be aware that parked cars or other obstacles can block your view.
- Stay alert—avoid looking at your phone or other distractions when walking near traffic.
- Wear bright or reflective clothing in the early morning or evening.

Driver Safety Tips

- Slow down in neighborhoods and areas where children might be playing.
- Expect increased pedestrian and bike traffic, especially near parks and schools.
- Never text or look at your phone while driving—distraction is dangerous.
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, even if they seem hesitant. A little courtesy goes a long way.

A Reminder for Cyclists

- Follow the rules of the road. Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Use hand signals when turning.
- Wear a helmet—it's a simple step that saves lives.

Let's all do our part to keep our streets safe this summer.

Coffee with the Chief

Join us on Tuesday, July 14th, 2026, between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, located at 100 W. Woodstock Street, for Coffee with the Chief! This is a great opportunity to enjoy some coffee and conversation with Chief Black.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the conversation topic. Keep an eye on our social media pages or contact Officer McGrath for updates.

Reserve your seat by emailing Officer McGrath at kmcgrath@crystallake.org or by phone at (815) 356-3620. Hope to see you there!



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

Summer Weather Hazard Awareness

Summer is finally here! While it brings sunshine and warm weather, it also comes with its own set of hazards. Staying informed by closely monitoring the weather forecast is one of the best ways to prepare and keep yourself and your family safe this summer.

Excessive Heat

Extreme heat and humidity can overwhelm your body quickly. This could lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke. On days with extreme heat warnings, drink plenty of water and stay hydrated. Try to avoid strenuous work or activities outdoors, reschedule them for a cooler day. Take breaks frequently in shaded or air-conditioned spaces.

Thunderstorms

Thunderstorms can bring dangerous conditions, including damaging winds, heavy rain that can cause flash floods, lightning strikes that can start fires, large hail, and even tornadoes. On days with thunderstorms in the forecast, prepare in advance and seek safe shelter indoors before the storm arrives. Ensure you know the difference between a thunderstorm watch and a thunderstorm warning.

Tornadoes

A tornado can produce winds exceeding 200 mph, destroy strong structures, and send objects hurtling through the air. Every tornado should be treated as life threatening. To stay safe, practice tornado drills, and prepare an emergency kit equipped with water, non-perishable foods, medicine, flashlights, batteries, etc. Have a backup power plan in case electricity, gas, or water is lost for an extended period. Know the difference between a tornado watch and a tornado warning so you know what safety actions to take.

Sources: American Red Cross, Weather.Gov, & National Oceanic and Atmospheric 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!

LT. WILLIAM H. HUFFMAN

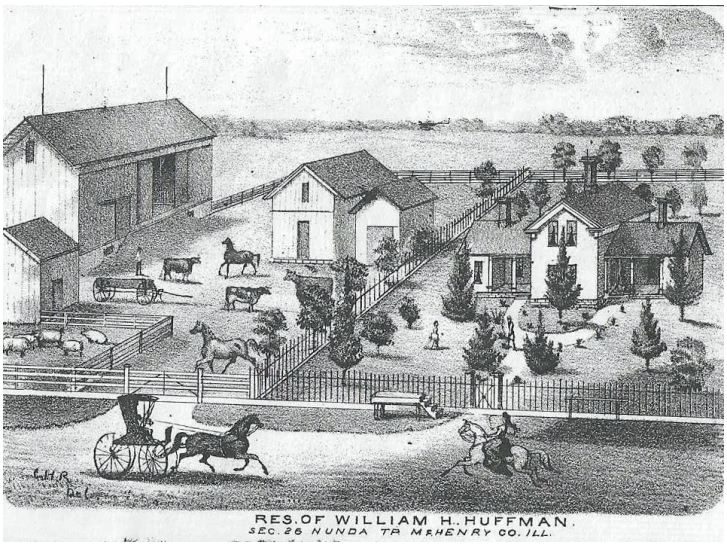
DIANA KENNEY

This year's Trolley Tour will be held Sunday, June 14th and is entitled, "Homes of our Civil War Veterans". The tour will take riders past many homes in our community that are associated with men who served in the Civil War. Unfortunately, many of the homes of these brave men are no longer standing, but their stories will still be told through informational displays at the Colonel Palmer House.

One such veteran is Lt. William H. Huffman. William was born June 20, 1827 in Nunda, Livingston County, New York. Together with his parents, William came to McHenry County in 1838 where they settled on a farm in Nunda Township.

At the age of 15, William left the family farm, working hard as a laborer until he could purchase his own farmland. Once his farm was established, he went back to New York to marry his childhood friend, Mary Starkweather in 1852. They returned to Illinois where Huffman continued as a successful farmer.

In the summer of 1862, William H. Huffman answered President Lincoln's call to service and enlisted in Co. D of the 95th Illinois Infantry. This regiment saw much action during the Civil War. The regiment fought at the battles of Champion Hill and the Siege of Vicksburg. Other major battles include Guntown and Nashville. Over the course of the war, 7 officers and 77 enlisted men were killed and 1 officer and 204 enlisted men died of disease. But William H. Huffman survived, returning to his farm in 1865.



The Huffman farm, as featured in the 1872 McHenry County Atlas

In 1881, Huffman moved into town, building a fine residence on today's Grant Street. In April 1883, local Civil War veterans organized and established a chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). The G.A.R. was a fraternal organization whose purpose was to preserve the camaraderie and memories established during the wartime experience. William H. Huffman was elected as the first Commander of G.A.R. Nunda Post #226.

As Post Commander, Huffman led his group to organize the first Memorial Day services in Crystal Lake in May 1883. Services included prayers, speeches and patriotic music. The graves of fallen soldiers were decorated at the Crystal Lake Cemetery. The G.A.R. Post #226 organized our local observance of Memorial Day until 1915. By that time, the ranks of this group of Civil War veterans had declined with its aging membership. For four years (1916-1919), the Commercial Club, a predecessor to the Chamber of Commerce, organized the parade and ceremonies. After World War I, the William Chandler Peterson American Legion Post #171 assumed the duties.



William H. Huffman died in his home on Grant Street on September 9, 1905. He is buried in Union Cemetery on Woodstock Street, the site of today's Memorial Day Services.

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

Tickets for the 26th Annual Heritage Trolley Tour are $25. Scan the QR code or visit Heisler's Bootery to purchase your tickets today!

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

Enjoy Warm Weather Season in Crystal Lake!

Warm weather and sunshine have officially arrived, and outdoor dining is now in full swing throughout the City, making it the perfect time to get out and enjoy Crystal Lake.

With summer in full swing, there's even more to look forward to. The beloved Dole Farmers Market and Downtown Farmers Market bring fresh produce, artisan goods, and a vibrant community atmosphere each weekend over the summer.

In Crystal Lake, summer is best enjoyed outdoors. Spend your day by the water at Three Oaks Recreation Area, strolling scenic trails, or simply soaking up the sunshine before heading downtown, where outdoor dining and local shops set the tone for a relaxed afternoon. Patios, fresh air, and a walkable atmosphere make it easy to linger a little longer over a meal or drinks.

Depot Park adds even more space to unwind, with seating, shade, beautiful landscaping, and room to gather. As evening rolls in, enjoy the Crystal Lake Park District Summer Concert Series on Tuesdays at Main Beach or catch a show at Raue Center for the Arts. This summer, take time to explore all that the Crystal Lake community has to offer!



New Business Now Open

Next Best Nutrition - 6222 Northwest Highway

- This new friendly spot serves healthy teas and shakes for clean energy.

www.clearlycrystallake.com

www.facebook.com/clearlycrystallake

www.instagram.com/clearlycrystallake/

CALENDAR | JUNE 2026

Monday, June 1
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
4:30 P.M.

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

Wednesday, June 3
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

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

Wednesday, June 17
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, June 17
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, June 23
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

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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	