City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER



Lakeside Festival

Don't miss out on the Annual Lakeside Festival, held on the grounds of the historic Dole Mansion from Thursday, July 2nd through Sunday, July 5th. The festival features live music, food booths, midway games, carnival rides, and a fun family atmosphere. The event is made possible thanks in large part to many hardworking volunteers and sponsors.

This year, America is celebrating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Join the community in this commemorative celebration!

The Lakeside Festival festivities will conclude with the City of Crystal Lake sponsored 2026 fireworks show on Sunday, July 5th. The fireworks will launch from Crystal Lake at dusk near Main Beach.

We wish you and your family a safe and happy Independence Day.

For additional information, visit www.thedole.org or call (815) 455-8000.

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Lakeside Fest Schedule	
Thursday, July 2	3:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Friday, July 3	Noon - 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, July 4	Noon - 11:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 5	Noon - 10:00 p.m.

Handicap Parking for Festival
Handicapped parking is available on Ringling Road east of the Main Stage in the festival grounds. Please contact the Lakeside Legacy Foundation or visit their website for more information regarding festival accessibility (https://www.thedole.org/accessibility-information).

Road Closure on Country Club Road during Festival Hours
During the hours the festival is open to patrons (see hours listed above), Country Club Road will be closed between Ringling Road and Broadway Avenue. Upon the festival closing each night, Country Club Road will be open to all vehicle traffic.

Parking in the County Club/Lake Avenue Lot
The Lakeside Festival entrances remain the same as they have in years past. The grass lot at the corner of Country Club Road and Lake Avenue will continue to be accessible through an entrance/exit located on Lake Avenue. There will be no vehicle access to that lot from Country Club Road. This parking lot will be closed at 8:00 p.m. on July 5 for the fireworks display.

During the closure, vehicles will not be permitted to enter or exit the lot. The lot will reopen upon the completion of the fireworks display.

Bicycle Parade the Morning of July 4th
The annual bicycle parade will take place on Saturday morning at approximately 12:00 p.m. While the short parade is ongoing, Lake Avenue will be closed between Leonard Parkway/Main Beach parking lot entrance and Country Club Road. Country Club Road will be closed from Lake Avenue to Broadway Avenue. Lake Avenue will reopen at approximately 12:30 p.m.

Independence Day Road Closures

Independence Day Parade Road Closures on July 5th and Notice of Limited/No Access to Side Streets
The Independence Day Parade on Sunday, July 5th, will require multiple road closures. The following are approximate road closure times in which vehicles will not be allowed to pass through:

- Woodstock Street between Walkup Avenue and Marian Parkway at approximately 11:00 a.m. No vehicles will be allowed on Woodstock Street after 11:00 a.m.
- Dole Avenue between Woodstock Street and Northwest Highway will be closed at approximately 12:00 p.m. No vehicles will be allowed on that section of Dole Avenue after 12:00 p.m.
- Dole Avenue between Northwest Highway and Country Club Road will be closed at approximately 12:30 p.m. No vehicles will be allowed on that section of Dole Avenue/Lake Avenue after 12:30 p.m.
- Access to the remainder of the parade route, being Country Club Road and Golf Road, will be restricted until the parade is completed.

If you reside near the parade route, anticipate limited to no access to the side streets for the times listed above until the parade is completed. This is being done for the safety of all parade participants and attendees of the parade.

Independence Day Fireworks Road Closures on July 5th and Notice of Limited/No Access to Side Streets
On July 5th, at approximately 9:30 p.m. (dusk), the City of Crystal Lake will host a fireworks display at Main Beach. In preparation for the display, the following road closures will take place from 8:00 p.m. until all post fireworks display pedestrian and vehicular traffic is clear:

- Dole Avenue – from Eagle Street to Lakeshore Drive
- Lakeshore Drive at Eagle Street
- Lake Avenue at Lakeshore Drive
- Lake Avenue at Spruce Lane
- Lake Avenue at Riverside Drive
- Country Club Road – from Ringling Road to Broadway Avenue



Similar to the parade, if you reside in the area around Main Beach, anticipate no access to any roadways in the area prior to, during, and following the fireworks display until pedestrian and vehicular traffic has significantly left the area.

2026 Independence Day Parade

The City of Crystal Lake will be celebrating Independence Day with the parade and fireworks. This year's Independence Day parade will resume its traditional 1.8-mile route of heading down Dole Avenue. The parade will kick off on Sunday, July 5th at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall (100 W. Woodstock Street), where it will continue down Dole Avenue, and finishes at the Lakeside Festival Grounds.

Accessible Viewing Area

Additionally, an accessible viewing area and handicap parking area for the Independence Day parade will be located in the parking lot at the corner of Woodstock Street and Dole Avenue at the start of the parade route. Signage will mark the designated area and access point. The location is shown to the right.

Entry from Woodstock Street will close at 11:00 a.m. Entry from Dole Avenue will close at 12:00 p.m.



Accessible Viewing Area

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Happy 4th of July!

While celebrating the festivities surrounding the 4th of July, we encourage everyone to do their due diligence and designate a sober driver. Friends don't let friends drive drunk. Additional Crystal Lake officers will be participating in the Illinois Department of Transportation's Traffic Enforcement Campaign during the holiday weekend.



National Night Out

Thursday, August 6th, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in Downtown Crystal Lake (Williams Street, South of Brink Street) is National Night Out (NNO)!

NNO is a national community-building event that promotes police-community partnerships. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring first responders and neighbors together under positive circumstances. The Crystal Lake Police Department believes the best way to build a safer community is to know your neighbors! NNO will include:

- K-9 Demo
- Touch-a-Truck
- Food and Entertainment from local businesses
- Music
- Games/Activities

If you'd like to set up a table to share information about your business or organization, host a game, activity, or handout products, we'd love to hear from you! Please email Officer McGrath.

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

4th of July Safety

As you gather with family, friends, and the community to celebrate the 4th of July, please keep safety at the forefront of your plans. In 2024, approximately 14,700 people were treated in emergency rooms for firework-related injuries, 37% of which were burns. Of those burn injuries, 22% affected the head, face, or ears, while 36% involved the hands and fingers. Tragically, 11 deaths were also reported.

Please remember that consumer fireworks are illegal in the State of Illinois and prohibited by the Crystal Lake City Ordinance. For more information on state laws, visit the Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal's website: https://sfm.illinois.gov/iam/business/fireworks.html.

Celebrate safely this year by attending a professional fireworks show!

Grilling Safety

If your upcoming celebrations include firing up the grill for hamburgers, hotdogs, or sausages, keep these safety tips in mind to ensure the only thing smoking is the food:

- Location is Key: Place your grill well away from structures, low hanging tree branches, or any other flammable objects before lighting it.
- Establish a Safety Zone: Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area. Never allow a child to operate the grill.
- Stay Present: Never leave a lit grill unattended. Stay focused until the cooking is done.
- Be Prepared: Always keep a fire extinguisher or a garden hose nearby and ready for immediate use.

Sources: NFPA.org & U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department (815) 356-3640

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

Youth Commission

Since 2024, the City operates with a Youth Commission to study, investigate, plan, implement and advise the City Council on matters related to youth. In particular, the Commission is charged with recommending policies, programs and services that empower, support and inform youth; that create a family friendly community; and that enable and encourage youth to be productive members of the community.

The Crystal Lake Youth Commission is committed to advocating for youth by providing them the opportunity to learn, lead and serve through community outreach, service projects and establishing youth-adult partnerships.

The Youth Commission is scheduled to hold its first meeting in September 2026 and the City is seeking interested applicants from the community. Applicants must be aged 16 to 20 years old and attend Crystal Lake Central High School, Crystal Lake South High School, Prairie Ridge High School, Haber Oaks, Crystal Lake Private High Schools, home school (in Crystal Lake), or McHenry County College.

Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Nick Hammonds, Deputy City Manager, at (815) 356-3675 or nhammonds@crystallake.org to obtain an application.

THREE OAKS RECREATION AREA

Park Hours
6:30 A.M. - Sunset

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.

OWS Thursdays | 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
July 2, 9, 16, & 23

OWS Saturdays | 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
July 11, 18, & 25

Bike Regulations

Bicycles are welcomed on paved asphalt paths, sidewalks, the parking lot, and entrance roads. In addition, the path leading from Pingree Road through the upper parking lot will remain accessible to bicycle riders. Bike racks are available near the Lake House to allow guests a safe location to store their bikes during their visit.

Please note, the Lake Loop Trail is for pedestrians only. Bicycles and/or motorized bicycles or scooters are not allowed on the trail. As of May 19, 2026, a City Ordinance was passed that violators will be subject to fines.

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

Watering Restrictions Reminder

Water is one of the area's greatest resources, but a finite supply is available. It is important to conserve water resources, especially in times of high demand and limited rainfall. Increased outdoor watering can lead to strains on the City's water system. To help reduce water system demands, the Public Works Department has implemented a water conservation plan and color-coded water regulation program.

The City's current watering restrictions are "yellow". Yellow watering restrictions states:

Lawn & landscape watering is permitted on odd/even days between the hours of 5:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Property addresses ending in odd numbers shall be permitted to use water on odd-numbered calendar days and even-numbered addresses on even-numbered calendar days.

The City will inform residents if the water system status changes from yellow to any other color.

VIRGINIA M. HOLLAND

DIANA KENNEY

How many people can claim they worked at the same place at essentially the same job for 50 years? If you were Virginia M. Holland, you could make that claim. Long-time residents of Crystal Lake may remember Virginia M. Holland, secretary at Crystal Lake Community High School from 1926 to 1976.

And how many people can claim they lived in the same house for over 80 years? Virginia can make that claim too. Virginia was born in the house her widowed grandmother, Mary Diekman, had built at 82-84 N. Caroline Street in 1905. Originally, the Diekman home was a single-family residence. When Mary's daughter Hulda married Fred Holland, the house was converted into a two-flat so the young couple could have their own separate space, but under the same roof.



The Diekman House, 82-84 N. Caroline Street

Fred and Hulda Diekman Holland were married in 1907. They had three children: Virginia (1909), Raymond (1910) and Violet (1913). Fred Holland worked as a stationary engineer at the Bowman Dairy Plant on Main Street. After Bowman Dairy shut down the Crystal Lake plant, the National Grain Yeast Co. took over the building, and Fred Holland remained on the National Grain Yeast payroll.

Virginia attended Union School on Paddock Street for grades 1-8. Her first two years of high school were at the old high school building, also on Paddock Street. But her final two years of high school were at the NEW Crystal Lake Community High School on Franklin Street, which was completed in 1924.

While in high school, Virginia competed in several county-wide business competitions, winning awards for shorthand (94.25% accuracy) and typing (31 words per minute).

Virginia graduated in 1926. She was the class valedictorian. In her valedictory address at graduation, she expressed appreciation on behalf of the class to the people of the community for the new school building and that the class had done its best to bring honor to the school. She stated, "The world will be full of pitfalls if we are not careful but education will help us to avoid them. Faith, honor and courage will always make us pull through. We will bring honor to Crystal Lake but it is hard to say farewell".

Evidently, Virginia couldn't say farewell to the school she loved. In September 1926, she was hired as secretary to School Board President and School Principal, Harry A. Dean. Over the span of her career, she would work for six principals (Dean, Ewing, McCleery, Tingleff, Buckner, Forsyth). In addition to her duties as school secretary, Virginia served as secretary to the High School Board of Education.



Virginia M. Holland, 1942

Virginia never married. She lived her entire life in the house in which she was born. Her parents, a spinster aunt, Helen Diekman and bachelor uncle, Fred Diekman also lived in the house that the family matriarch, Mary Diekman had built so many years before.

In October 1976, after 50 years of service, Virginia M. Holland retired. A retirement tea was held in her honor. The Crystal Lake Herald recapped her career, "In her 50 years of service to the district, she has worked in every conceivable secretarial capacity...She has been a secretary to principals and to superintendents. She has served as Secretary to the Board of Education and as district registrar. She has handled payroll, board and district elections, and the district bookkeeping. She has paid all district bills and has recorded student grades".

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At the retirement tea, Superintendent Paul Baker commented, “Virginia has taken more care of all of us than we probably can ever expect again.” With her traditional sense of humor, Miss Holland replied, “50 years is enough, even for District 155”.

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

Clearly CRYSTAL LAKE

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

New Businesses

Jimmy Johns - 609 Crystal Point Road
- Visit their new location with a drive-thru!

Pub Eighty Ate - 88 Railroad Street
- Come check out Pub Eighty Ate, Crystal Lake’s newest restaurant in downtown. Serving elevated modern American cuisine and craft cocktails focused on quality.

First Watch - 5689 Northwest Highway, Unit A
- Located in Water's Edge, is a nationwide chain known for fresh ingredients, warm ambiance, and seasonal flavors for breakfast and lunch.

Menchie’s Frozen Yogurt - 570 Water’s Edge Boulevard, Unit D
- A family friendly self-serve frozen yogurt restaurant in the new Water’s Edge complex. Offering a variety of froyos that's a better-for-you sweet treat option, containing live and active cultures, no artificial flavors or colors, and no high fructose corn syrup.

CAVA - 5689 Northwest Highway, Unit G
- Located in Water's Edge is a new Mediterranean-inspired cuisine, focusing on fresh ingredients and bold flavors.

www.clearlycrystallake.com

www.facebook.com/clearlycrystallake | **www.instagram.com/clearlycrystallake/**

CALENDAR | JULY 2026

Wednesday, July 1
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Friday, July 3
City Offices Closed
Observance of Independence Day Holiday

Sunday, July 5
Independence Day Parade & Fireworks
Parade - 1:00 p.m., Fireworks - Dusk

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

Wednesday, July 8
Public Arts Commission
8:00 A.M.

Wednesday, July 15
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, July 15
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, July 21
City Council 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

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	