City of Crystal Lake, Illinois
CITYLETTER











National Night Out

Are you ready for National Night Out? Join the Crystal Lake Police Department on Thursday, August 6, 2026, in Downtown Crystal Lake. This free, family-friendly event runs from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Williams Street, south of Brink Street and includes:

- K-9 Cruise and K-9 Osaka Meet & Greet
- Bicycle helmet sizing and give away (while supplies last)
- Touch-A-Truck display
- Hand prints on a squad car
- Food and entertainment from local businesses and more!

Curbside Electronics Collection Page 3

Save the Date - Open House Event Page 4

Three Oaks Change in Hours Page 5

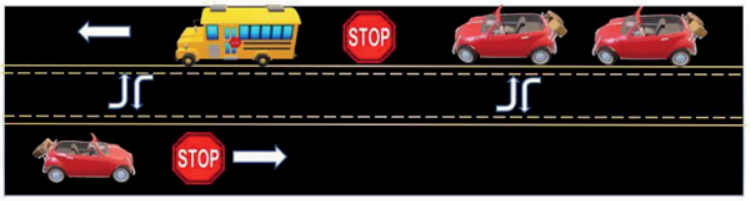
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Back to School Safety

With the start of a new school year approaching, it's crucial to prioritize safety in school zones and around school buses. Here are some key reminders:

- **School Zones and Crosswalks:** Be vigilant and adhere to posted speed limits in school zones. Watch out for pedestrians, especially children crossing streets.
- **School Buses:** It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped with its stop sign extended and lights flashing, whether you are approaching from behind or from the opposite direction. According to Illinois State Statute, drivers must stop before meeting or overtaking a school bus on any roadway or property designated for school bus stops.

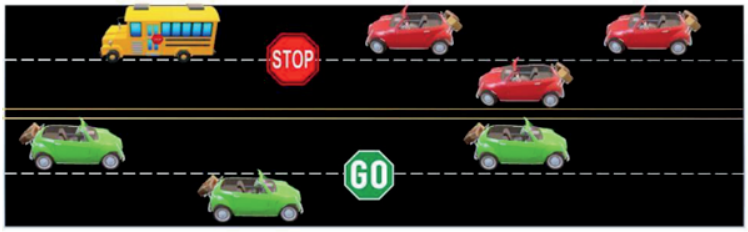




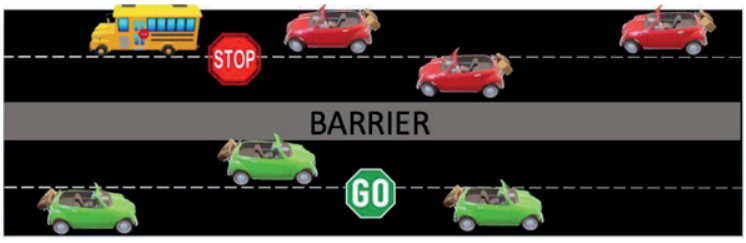
Two-Lane Roadway with Center Turn Lane: When school bus stops to unload passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



Two-Lane Roadway: When school bus stops to unload passengers, all traffic from both directions must stop.



Four-Lane Roadway without a Median Separation: When school bus stops to unload passengers, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.



Divided Highway of Four Lanes or More with a Median Separation: When school bus stops to unload passengers, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop.

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!

Community Photos



Photo by: Liz Rosenthal

Photo by: Amya Catacutan

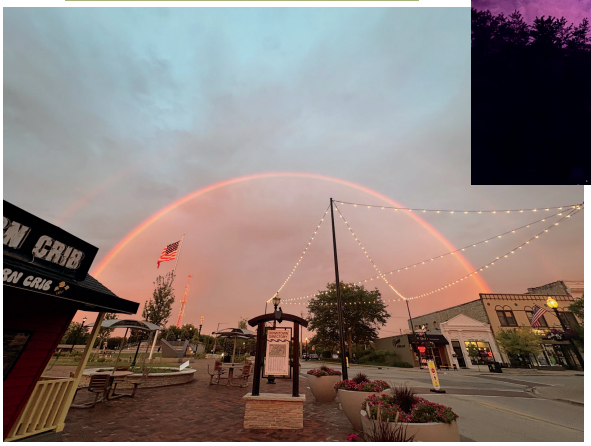


Photo by: Gem U Catama



Curbside Electronics Collection Event: September 14 - 18

LRS will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of September 14 - 18, 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 March 2027. 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 March 2027.

FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Close Before You Doze

Did you know that simply closing your bedroom door at night could save your life? In a house fire, a closed door acts as a shield, blocking toxic smoke, keeping oxygen levels up, and slowing the spread of flames.

The Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) found that a staggering majority of people sleep with their doors wide open. Yet, roughly half of all home fire fatalities occur between 11:00 P.M. and 7:00 A.M.

The dramatic difference a single door makes is backed by science:

- **Temperature**: A room with an open door can soar to a deadly 1,000°F, while a room with a closed door can stay under 100°F.
- **Carbon Monoxide**: Open doors allow toxic gas to skyrocket to 10,000 ppm (fatal levels). A closed door can keep it around 1,000 ppm.
- **Oxygen**: Fire steals oxygen. An open room drops to a suffocating 8% oxygen, while a closed room maintains a breathable level of 18% oxygen.

Closing your door doesn't just protect you; it starves the fire of the oxygen it needs to grow. Make it a habit tonight: Close before you doze!



Sources: closeyourdoor.org & NFPA.org

Save the Date - Annual Open House Event

This year, the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department is hosting its Annual Open House Event on October 3, 2026. The Open House will be held at Station 1, 100 W. Woodstock Street, starting from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Make sure you mark your calendars to come and enjoy a day of fun and learning! This event is completely free.

Donations for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry will be accepted at the event. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

The Open House will have:

- Fire Safety Demonstrations
- Apparatus Display
- Obstacle Course
- A Chance to Spray a Fire Hose
- Activities and More!



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

Change in Hours of Operation

Marina

August 1 - 14 Daily: 6:30 a.m. to Sunset
August 17 - 31 Weekdays: Closed
August 15 - 30 Weekends: Open at 6:30 a.m.*

**Closing time to be determined. Please visit our website for exact times.*

Swim Beach

August 1 - 14 Daily: 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
August 17 - September 4 Weekdays: Closed
August 15 - September 7 Weekends: 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The beach will close for the season after Labor Day, Monday, September 7, 2026.

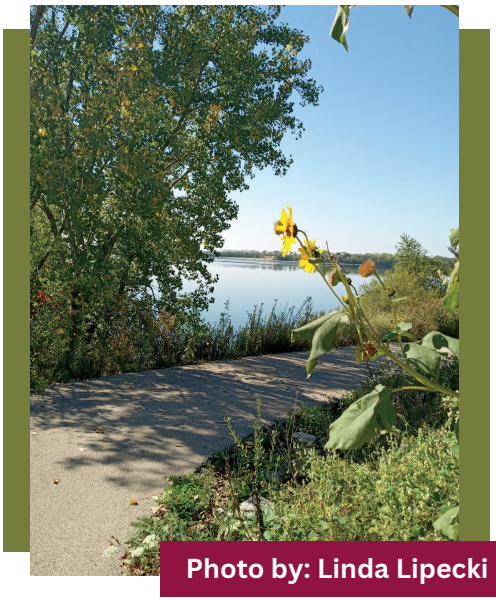


Photo by: Linda Lipecki

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.

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

World Water Week

World Water Week takes place from August 23 - 27, 2026 and this year's theme is Water for People and Progress. World Water Week has been held every year since 1991 and focuses on global water issues.

During this week, you can participate in discussions ranging from an equitable water secure future for all people, to recognizing and supporting women's rights and responsibilities relating to water, Indigenous science and knowledge, and the climate crisis. In previous years, there were 15,000 participants worldwide from 193 countries and territories.

World Water Week primarily takes place in Stockholm Sweden, but also allows for free online participation across the world. To learn more or sign up to attend World Water Week online, visit: https://www.worldwaterweek.org/.

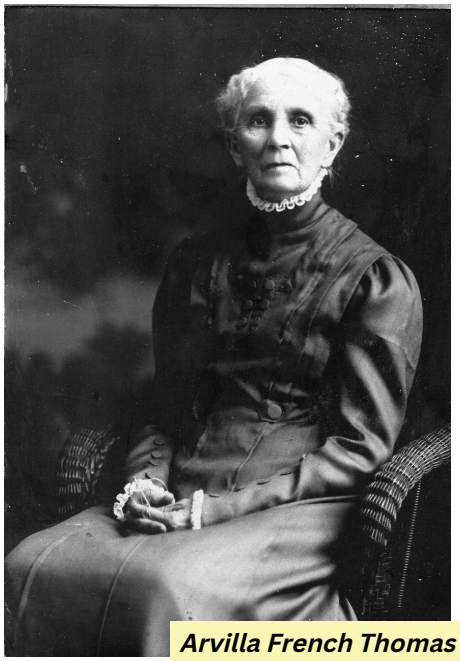
AN UNFORTUNATE FIRST

DIANA KENNEY

Arvilla French was born November 26, 1826 near Amsterdam, NY. Her parents were Joshua and Mary French. When Arvilla was a teenager, she journeyed west with her parents and siblings to settle in McHenry County in 1844. Her father purchased a farm in Algonquin Township (southeast of today's Lake in the Hills Airport).

Arvilla met and married Lafayette Thomas in 1846. The Thomas family was one of the first families to settle in McHenry County. They owned a substantial piece of land south of today's downtown Cary, with considerable frontage on the Fox River. The 1860 census indicates Lafayette's real estate was worth $6,000. By 1870, his property was worth $14,000. Lafayette and Arvilla raised their three sons and two daughters on the farm. Unfortunately, one daughter died when she was 13 years old.

By 1880, Lafayette and Arvilla retired from farming and moved into the Village of Cary. A few years later, they moved to Carthage, Missouri to be near their youngest son, Ber and his family. In Carthage, Lafayette purchased ten acres of land in town and had a substantial house built. Their widowed daughter Marion also lived with them in Missouri. The Thomas's made Carthage their home until 1899 when Lafayette died. At age 75, Lafayette had a number of ailments, but the final blow was delivered by influenza. His body was brought back to Illinois by train and buried in the Algonquin Cemetery.



Arvilla French Thomas

Arvilla and Marion decided to move back to Illinois to be near Marion's daughter, May Hale. Marion's health had been failing and unfortunately, she died in 1902. Shortly after Marion's death, Arvilla purchased property and had a Queen Anne-styled home built at 96 N. Walkup. The home was completed in 1904. Prominent features of Arvilla's home include a steeply pitched hip roof with multiple lower cross gables. Although today the clapboard siding has been encased with vinyl, the front porch balusters and columns are original, as is the lovely stained glass window on the north side of the house.



96 N. Walkup

In 1905, Arvilla's granddaughter, May Hale and her husband built another Queen-Anne styled home (84 N. Walkup) next door to Arvilla.

On Wednesday, August 3, 1910, 83 year-old Arvilla was riding in a pony rig with her granddaughter, May Hale and great-grandson Hamilton on McHenry Avenue near the Union School. The pony was startled by an automobile, and Mrs. Hale, who was driving, lost control of the rig. The pony pulled the rig into the yard of Carl Jurs' home, crashing into the corner of the building. Arvilla was thrown against the house. Her skull was fractured and she died an hour later at her home. Her granddaughter and great-grandson escaped with minor injuries.

Unfortunately, Arvilla French Thomas has the distinction as being the first casualty in an auto accident in Crystal Lake.

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

CLEARLY CRYSTAL LAKE CORNER

August in Crystal Lake: Savor Summer, Welcome Fall

There's something special about August in Crystal Lake. The days are still warm, the evenings arrive a little earlier, and the community is buzzing with opportunities to enjoy the final weeks of summer before a new season begins. Whether you're taking an evening stroll through the newly reopened Depot Park downtown or enjoying Dusk at the Depot on August 20, it's the perfect time to soak in everything our community has to offer.

August is made for gathering with family and friends, sharing a meal on a local patio, exploring downtown shops, or discovering a new favorite boutique. Admire the colorful public art installations displayed at area benches and Water's Edge Park, or spend a Saturday or Sunday morning browsing the farmers markets. From live entertainment and community events to local dining and hidden gems, August offers countless ways to experience the very best of Crystal Lake.

As families prepare for the return to school, local businesses are ready to help with everything from school supplies and fresh haircuts to clothing, wellness services, and after-school activities. Choosing to shop locally does more than support small businesses; it helps strengthen the community we all call home.

Before long, the first hints of fall will begin to appear, bringing Friday night football, autumn activities, cooler evenings, and a new season of community events. Until then, make the most of these sunny days, create lasting memories, and celebrate all that makes Crystal Lake a wonderful place to live, work, and explore. Here's to making the most of August and welcoming a vibrant new season together.

www.clearlycrystallake.com

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

CALENDAR | AUGUST 2026

Monday, August 3
Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
4:30 P.M.

Tuesday, August 4
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, August 5
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, August 12
Public Arts Commission Meeting
8:00 A.M.

Tuesday, August 18
City Council Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Wednesday, August 19
Sustainability Committee Meeting
6:30 P.M.

Wednesday, August 19
Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting
7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, August 25
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	