



City Letter



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Pierson Street



Fire hydrant flushing



Hoverboard Safety



Spring is here



The first day of spring is Sunday, March 20, 2016.

It's time to get ready to start your spring plantings!



This year – go native! The Wildflower Preservation and Propagation Committee holds their annual Native Plant Sale the first Sunday in May at McHenry County Community College. Look for this year's flyer at www.thewppc.org

Want to plant some big roots? Purchase an oak tree from The Land Conservancy (TLC). During Project Quercus, TLC rounds up acorns from some of the oldest living things in McHenry County, our famous oak trees. TLC works with Glacier Oaks Nursery to sell a variety of the locally grown oaks to residents. Look for information on their Spring Oak Tree Sale. <http://www.conservemc.org/>





Three Oaks Recreation Area

5517 Northwest Highway – Crystal Lake, IL 60014; (815) 356-3782; www.threeoaksrecreation.com

MARINA RENTAL SEASON OPENS IN APRIL

We are excited to open the boat rental marina for the season on Friday, April 8, 2016 at 6:30 a.m. Through the end of April, the Marina will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 6:30 a.m. to Sunset. We will only be renting boats if ice is completely off the lake, so please visit our website for updated information.

During April, rentals are limited to fishing boats and paddle pontoons for safety.

The following boats are available for rental throughout the month of April:

12' Mirrocraft Aluminum Boats

- Includes oars, anchor and Minn Kota® electric trolling motor & battery
- Limited to 2 adults and 1 small child (450 lbs. maximum)
- Rental allowed for 16-17 year old (without motor) with the signature of parent/guardian who remains onsite
- \$22 (Resident Discount) / \$25 (Regular Rate) - for minimum 2 hour rental
- Fish finder - \$5

14' Mirrocraft Aluminum Boats

- Includes oars, anchor and Minn Kota® electric trolling motor & battery
- Limited to 3 adults and 1 small child / 685 lbs. maximum
- Rental allowed for 16-17 year old (without motor) with the signature of parent/guardian who remains onsite
- \$24 (Resident Rate)/ \$28 (Non-Resident Rate) – for minimum 2 hour rental
- Fish finder - \$5

Paddle Pontoon - Manual

- \$25 (Resident Discount)/ \$30 (Regular Rate) – for minimum 1 hour rental
- 6-8 passengers
- Rental limited to 18 year old (minimum)

Paddle Pontoon - Electric

- \$30 (Resident Discount)/ \$35 (Regular Rate) – for the minimum 1 hour rental
- 6-8 passengers
- Rental limited to 18 year old (minimum)



Additional Services Available

- State of Illinois Fishing Licenses
 - Must provide a photo identification – i.e. driver's license
- Night-crawlers \$4/dozen
- Miscellaneous fishing tackle products for sale
- Friendly, courteous service is always “free”

Reminder – we are a “Catch & Release” recreational fishing facility



Customer Boat Rental Guidelines

- Driver's license is required for all rentals.
- Three Oaks provides all required life jackets and seat cushions with rentals.
- Life jackets must be worn at all times.
- Customers must remain in the watercraft at all times – no swimming or wading from any boat.
- Do not access the islands or shorelines – remain in the boat at all times.
- Alcohol is not permitted.

Calendar Reminders

-Picnic Pavilion reservations are accepted Monday – Friday at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

-Pending unforeseen weather conditions, the Park will remain open daily throughout the season as listed.

APRIL

- Beginning on Friday, April 8th, the Park is OPEN daily from 6:30 a.m. to Sunset
- Beginning on Friday, April 8th, the Marina is OPEN from 6:30 a.m. to Sunset on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

MAY

- Beginning in May, the Park will follow Marina opening hours and will close at Sunset.
- May 1 – 27; the Marina is open daily from 6:30 a.m. until Sunset.
- May 28 – 31; the Marina is open daily from 5:30 a.m. until Sunset.
- Swimming Beach opens on Saturday, May 28th at 10:00 a.m.

Information & Updates Follow Us On ...



ThreeOaksRecreation.com



Crystal Lake Police Department



Be Wary of Scammers

With warmer weather, it might not just be you heading outside for the fresh air.

Your doorbell may ring from companies offering their services to repair roof damage as the result of the winter snow.

Here are a few tips that may help protect you and your wallet.

- Before you answer your door, ensure that any other doors leading inside your home are locked. While you may be speaking with one person at the front door, another person you didn't see may attempt to sneak inside your home from another entry.
- As good as quickly resolving a roof issue may sound, don't rush into signing anything or paying a deposit.
- Remember the description of the person you met with.
- Look for a company name on the vehicle or uniform shirt if worn.
- Ask for a business card.
- Consult with a family member, friend, or a neighbor first.
- Research the company online.
- Contact the police immediately if you find the solicitor's actions suspicious or if you believe you were victimized.

Celebrating Safely

Spring Break Safety Message

The week long break after spending countless hours studying, preparing for mid-terms, and completing projects, is well earned. As you prepare to celebrate spring break, do not throw away all of your hard work by making a poor decision. Please don't text and drive. If traveling a long distance, rotate drivers to help reduce fatigue. Driving fatigued is just as dangerous as driving while impaired. Take care of each other and celebrate safely.

St. Patrick's Day is a celebratory day where local pubs see an increase in visitors. It has long been a national tradition for many people and businesses, to display the color green and enjoy a night out. Please drink responsibly. Never drink and drive. Always find a sober ride home.



Upcoming Events

Coffee with the Chief is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Crystal Lake Police Department, 100 W. Woodstock Street. Seating is limited. Please R.S.V.P. to Officer Eddie Pluviose at (815)356-3731 or email at epluviose@crystallake.org.

Bicycle Safety and Laws Seminar is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2016, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Crystal Lake Police Department. Members of the Crystal Lake Police Department and the McHenry County Conservation District will present a seminar on the topics of bicycle safety, traffic crash statistics, sharing the roadway, and the laws pertaining to both motorists and bicyclists. Parents are highly encouraged to attend. Seating is limited, R.S.V.P. to Officer Eddie Pluviose at (815) 356-3731 or email at epluviose@crystallake.org

IDOT Traffic Campaign

Additional Crystal Lake Officers will participate in the state-wide campaign for traffic and DUI enforcement during the St. Patrick's Day weekend.

815-356-3620

Crystal Lake Police Department Non-Emergency



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT



CHANGE YOUR CLOCK
CHANGE YOUR
BATTERY

The spring weather means it's time to turn your clocks ahead one hour. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 13, 2016. This also means it is a great time to ensure that your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working and to put in fresh batteries.

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors can save lives when they are operating properly. Make it a tradition that when you change your clocks for Daylight Savings Time, you change your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.

Working detectors (on every level of your home) can buy your family valuable time to escape from a fire or a dangerous level of carbon monoxide.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 60% of fire related deaths occur in homes that have non-working smoke detectors or no smoke detectors installed.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It can make you feel sick and is deadly. CO is called the invisible killer because the gas cannot be seen or smelled.



Safety Tips:

- Replace your smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries every 6 months.
- Test your detectors each month. Press the test button to make sure the detector is working.
- Clean your smoke detectors each month by vacuuming dust and cobwebs from the detectors to ensure their proper sensitivity to smoke.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home, inside each bedroom, and outside sleeping areas.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors outside each sleeping area.
- Use interconnected detectors. When one detector sounds, they all sound.
- Replace your detectors if they are 10 years or older.
- When your detectors sound, move outdoors as quickly as possible. Call 911 from outside your home.
- Create an escape plan and meeting place with your family and practice it often.

Information provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Q&A City of Crystal Lake Fire Hydrant Flushing

How many fire hydrants are there in the City of Crystal Lake?

There are over 3,000 fire hydrants in the City of Crystal Lake and the Water & Sewer Division flushes out each of these hydrants and the attached underground pipes annually during the spring.

Why are hydrants flushed every year, isn't it wasting water?

There are two main reasons fire hydrants are flushed every year. First and foremost, this ensures the hydrants are operating properly and there is sufficient water flow and pressure for the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department, if needed. The second reason is to flush naturally occurring sediment out of the underground pipes connected to the fire hydrant.

How is a fire hydrant turned on, where is the water coming from?

Each fire hydrant you see is connected to underground pipes carrying water. It is the same water coming into your home or business. A hydrant wrench is used to open a "port" where the water comes out, similar to the faucet in your home. The same wrench is used to turn the "operating nut" located on the top of the hydrant. The operating nut allows water to come up the barrel and flow out of the openings, similar to your faucet's hot and cold knobs.



Hydrant wrench

How does Crystal Lake Fire Rescue use a hydrant to fight a fire?

Water comes out of a fire hydrant at the same pressure you experience in your home. However, firefighters require adequate pressure and high volume to fight fires. In order to have enough volume, the firefighters will open the large cover of the hydrant and connect a 5 inch hose from the hydrant to their fire engine. The fire engine contains a pump that increases the pressure of the water. The firefighters then connect smaller hoses to the engine which are used to fight a fire.

During hydrant flushing will I see any changes to my water service?

During flushing, water may become temporarily discolored due to material being removed from water mains. The water is safe to drink, but may stain clothes that are washed during the flushing. Please limit doing laundry during this time, but if this is not possible, the City offers Rover, a chemical that can be used as a cleanser in laundry to remove iron stains, free of charge.

If a car were to strike a hydrant, would the water really gush out like it does in the movies?

Normally, no. As long as a hydrant is off, water should not gush out if struck. All the fire hydrants you see around the City are "dry barrel hydrants." This means there is no water sitting in the upper portion of the hydrant when it is turned off. The valve controlling the flow of water is actually below ground and there is a long stem connecting the valve to the operating nut. Near the base of that valve are weep holes. When the operating nut is used to turn the hydrant off, it opens those weep holes and allows the water to drain out of the hydrant and the stem. Incidentally, this is also a very important mechanism to avoid water freezing in the hydrant during the colder months.



Fire hydrant flushing by City of Crystal Lake Water Division

Spring 2016 Full System Hydrant Flushing Schedule*

Section 1 – March 21 – March 26

North of Rt. 176 and East of Rt. 14

East of Pingree Rd. and North of Crystal Lake Ave.

Section 2 – March 28 – April 2

South of Rt. 176 to Rt. 14

East of Main St. to Rt. 31 (South of Crystal Lake Ave)

East of Rt. 31 and South of Rt. 14 to Wal-Mart

Section 3 – April 4 – April 9

South of Rt. 176 to Rt. 14

East of Rt. 14 to Main St.

Section 4 – April 11 – April 16

South of Rt. 14, East of McHenry Ave. to Rt. 31

Section 5 – April 18 – April 23

West of Rt. 14 and McHenry Ave. (North of Barlina)

Section 6 – April 25 – April 30

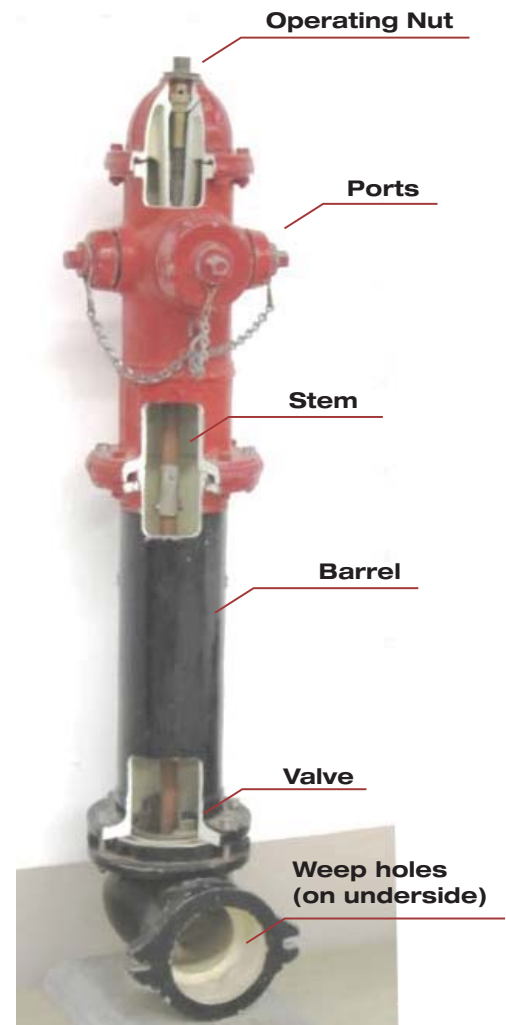
South of Barlina Rd. to Alexandra Blvd.

West of McHenry Ave. and West of Randall Rd.

Section 7 – May 2 – May 7

South of Alexandra Blvd. to Miller Rd.

West of Randall Rd.



*Subject to weather conditions



Hoverboard Safety

Hoverboard – part toy, part transportation. These self-balancing scooters have quickly become the latest fad. However, many hoverboards have been linked to fires. Beyond the fire hazards, there have been an increasing number of injuries associated with these products.

Some colleges have prohibited hoverboards on their campuses and rail lines. This includes Chicago's Metra, which will not permit hoverboards on its trains due to concerns over potential fire hazards.



The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issued a new, more detailed warning on January 21, 2016 stating that there is no safety standard in place for hoverboards. The CPSC chairman warned buyers against considering any Underwriters Laboratory (UL) marks on a hoverboard as an indication of a safe device. According to the CPSC, Underwriters Laboratory has yet to certify any hoverboards for safety. The UL organization has a page set up on their website alerting consumers that it has not certified any hoverboards and that UL marks that might appear on hoverboard or hoverboard batteries are not a guarantee of safety. For more information, go to www.cpsc.gov or <https://ul.com/newsroom/featured/uls-involvement-in-hoverboard-certification/>

If you purchased a hoverboard:

- Read and follow all manufacturer directions. If you do not understand the directions, ask for help.
- Do not leave a charging hoverboard unattended.
- Charge the device in an open area away from combustible materials.
- Never leave the hoverboard plugged in overnight.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the hover board.
- Stop using your hoverboard if it overheats.
- Know that extreme hot or cold temperature can hurt the battery.

Always:

- Wear a helmet, elbow and knee pads and wrist guards.
- Have a working fire extinguisher nearby while charging or using these boards in and around your home.
- Have an adult be responsible for charging the hover board.
- Do not use a hoverboard on or near a road.

Signs of a Problem

Some hoverboard fires have involved the lithium-ion battery or chargers. Below are signs that you have a problem with your hoverboard:

- Leaking fluids
- Excessive heat
- Odor
- Sparking
- Smoke

If you notice any of these signs, stop using the device right away. **Call 911.** If safe to do so, move the board outside, away from anything that can burn.



Travel Notes

- When riding in a car, keep the hoverboard where you can see it in case it shows signs of a problem.
- Many airlines have banned hoverboards. If you plan to fly with a hoverboard, be sure to check with your air carrier.

Information provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Street Scenes—Pierson Street

By Diana Kenney

The original Plat of Survey for the Village of Crystal Lake was completed in 1840. This original Plat indicates eight streets and 138 individual lots. An area the size of ten lots was set aside as a public square (today's McCormick Park).



The area on this map with the red outline shows the original Village of Crystal Lake. The map is from the 1872 Atlas of McHenry County, and one can see that in 30 years not only had the village grown but also James Pierson's land holdings.

One of the original eight streets was Park Street. This east-west street was located one block south of Virginia Street (Route 14). In 1933, Mrs. Libby Duffy Reynolds approached City Council asking to have the name of Park Street changed to recognize and honor one of the City's earliest and most prominent citizens. Mrs. Reynolds states, "I have long been of the opinion that there has been too little reverence paid to the memories of the founders and pioneers of our city. I have in mind the specific instance in which we, as a community, owe a debt of gratitude in which is long since overdue." Thus, a proposal was approved to rename Park Street to "Pierson Street" in honor of James T. Pierson.

James T. Pierson was born December 5, 1806 in Orange County, New York. In 1832, James Pierson

married Miss Mary C. Woodruff, a native of Suffolk County, New York. In 1840, the couple came to settle in Crystal Lake. The Piersons were charter members of the First Congregational Church, which was organized in 1842.

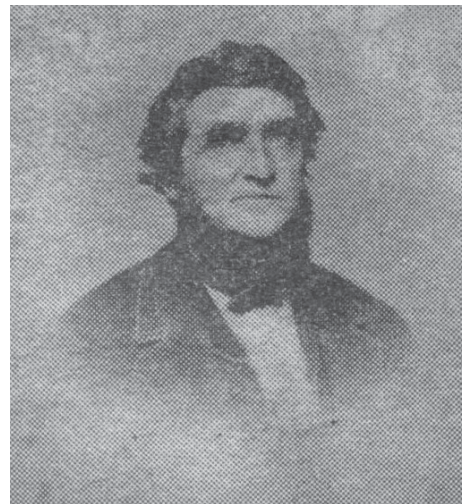


Image of James T. Pierson from 1936 Crystal Lake Herald

Mr. Pierson operated a mercantile store. He was also a farmer, acquiring large tracts of land in the area. Mr. Pierson earned a reputation for his business ability and sterling integrity. He served his community by being a Circuit Court Judge, Justice of the Peace, County Treasurer, and Representative to the State Legislature. During the Civil War, he helped organize the Soldiers Aid Society which assembled relief packages for the soldiers.

In 1858, Mr. Pierson erected a large, three story brick building at the southwest corner of Florence and Virginia Street. In this building was a dance hall, stores, post office and other quarters. For many years, a room in the building was used to hold the monthly meetings of the Village Council of Crystal Lake. The building was known as "Pierson's Block." In later years, the building was owned by Walter

Fitch and was known as the "Brick Block Building" or "Fitch's Block." In 1924, the vacant and neglected brick block building was torn down. In its place, a gasoline station was erected by J.H. Bauer & Sons. Today, the corner is home to a Mobil gas station/car wash.



This scene is Route 14 looking east from Dole Avenue. Pierson's 3-story Brick Block Building is on right.

The Piersons lived in Crystal Lake for more than 30 years. In 1872, they moved to Clinton, Iowa, where he continued his lifetime of community service. He was elected Mayor of the city in 1876, and in 1877 was elected City Treasurer.

Mary Pierson died May 19, 1884 in Clinton, Iowa. She is buried next to the couple's daughter, Eliza, in the Lake Avenue Cemetery, Crystal Lake. James T. Pierson died two years later on July 22, 1886. He is buried in the Springdale Cemetery, Clinton County, Iowa.

About the Author: Diana Kenney is Executive Director of Downtown Crystal Lake/ Main Street, is an appointed member of the City of Crystal Lake's Historic Preservation Commission, and is President of the Crystal Lake Historical Society.

OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We're continually updating our website (watch for more features coming soon!) to provide our residents, businesses and visitors with timely and needed information. Our Facebook pages are a great way to share interesting posts and keep you informed, and our Twitter feed provides current news and construction updates, particularly in the summer construction season.

We believe that having a social media presence is one more way to bring us together and affirm that sense of community. We hope you agree!

- Visit our Website at www.crystallake.org
- You can easily find our Facebook pages by searching for City of Crystal Lake IL, (government organization), Crystal Lake Police Department (government organization) and Three Oaks Recreation Area.
- Follow us on Twitter @crystallakeil



Seasonal Job Openings



We are currently looking for the following seasonal positions:

- Lifeguards to work at our Three Oaks Recreation Area
 - The Three Oaks season typically runs from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.
 - Lifeguards must have American Red Cross Certification for Lifeguards and First Aid and CPR/AED certification.
- Administrative Intern
- Public Works Seasonal Help

Further details and job requirements for the above positions are located on our website, www.crystallake.org. Interested candidates should submit an employment application, which is also available on the City's website.

Lifeguarding Class

The City will be offering a lifeguard class at Sea Level Diving in Crystal Lake. The class will be taught by Three Oaks Recreation Area staff. This class also includes First Aid and CPR/AED certification. Successful completion of the class will allow students to be considered for employment at Three Oaks Recreation Area as a lifeguard.

The class will be offered on March 14, 2016 through March 18, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The cost of the program is \$195 for residents of Crystal Lake and \$215 for non-residents of Crystal Lake.

Please visit our website: ThreeOaksRecreation.com to download the registration form and for more information.

Calendar Reminders



March 2016 Calendar

Event and meeting dates subject to change

Tuesday, March 1

- City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, March 2

- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Friday, March 11

- Mother Son Neon Night, 6:00 p.m. (Grand Oaks)
(visit: www.crystallakeparks.org to register)

Friday, March 14-18

- Lifeguarding Class, 5:00 p.m. (Sea Level Diving)
(visit: www.ThreeOaksRecreation.com to register)

Tuesday, March 15

- Coffee with the Chief, 6:00 p.m. (City Hall)
- City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, March 16

- Library Board, 7:00 p.m. (Public Library)
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Tuesday, March 22

- Economic Development Committee, 7:30 a.m. (City Hall)

Saturday, March 26

- Lunch with the Bunny, 11:00 a.m. (Old Towne Hall)
(visit: <http://www.downtowncl.org> for ticket information)

April 2016 Calendar

Event and meeting dates subject to change

Tuesday, April 5

- City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, April 6

- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Friday, April 8

- Three Oaks Recreation Area Park, Open daily, 6:30 a.m.-Sunset
- Three Oaks Recreation Area Marina, Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.-Sunset (during the month of April)

Tuesday, April 19

- City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Wednesday, April 20

- Library Board, 7:00 p.m. (Public Library)
- Planning & Zoning Commission, 7:30 p.m. (City Hall)

Thursday, April 21

- Ladies Night Out, 5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. (Downtown Crystal Lake)

Saturday, April 23

- Community Clean Up Day, 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce)

Tuesday, April 26

- Economic Development Committee, 7:30 a.m. (City Hall)





City of Crystal Lake
Incorporated 1914

Mayor: Aaron T. Shepley
Councilmember: Ellen Brady
Councilmember: Ralph M. Dawson
Councilmember: Cathy A. Ferguson
Councilmember: Brett Hopkins
Councilmember: Cameron Hubbard
Councilmember: Haig Haleblian
City Clerk: Nick Kachiroubas
City Manager: Gary J. Mayerhofer

Police/Fire/Ambulance
Emergency Only
911

All Other Departments
(Non-Emergency)
815-459-2020
www.crystallake.org

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City of Crystal Lake
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Crystal Lake, IL 60014

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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 Letter, please express them in the space provided below. (If you need more space, please attach a separate piece of paper). Clip this and mail to: City Letter, City of Crystal Lake, 100 W. Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Questions or comments can also be sent to comments@crystallake.org.

Name:

Address:

Phone: