

City of Crystal Lake, Illinois CITY LETTER



Three Oaks Recreation Area

5517 Northwest Highway Crystal Lake, IL 60014;
www.threeoaksrecreation.com (815) 459-2020 ex. 4288
PARK HOURS 8:00 a.m. to Sunset

Pavilion Rental Reservations

Reservations for 2018 begin on Tuesday, January 2nd for in-person rentals only starting at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall. Beginning January 3rd, the City will start accepting reservations by email with payments taken by phone along with walk-in reservations. The Picnic Grove, Island, Volleyball Court and North Lake Pavilions are reserved on a "first-come, first-serve" basis.

Please make sure your application is filled out completely before making your reservation at City Hall on January 2nd. Payment is expected in full at time of reservation.

To reserve a pavilion:

- Complete the "Pavilion Rental Permit Application"
- Submit your application in one of two ways:
 - At City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock St., between 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
 - Email the application to: pavilion@crystallake.org
- All rental fees and deposits are due at the time of application. Credit cards are accepted over the phone by calling: 815-459-2020 ex. 4288.

NOTE: Your pavilion will not be reserved until all payment has been received.

All details (size of pavilions, locations, fee schedule, amenities) and related application forms are available on our website: www.threeoaksrecreation.com under the "Pavilion Rentals" tab.

Inside:

The King Hotel

Shop Local

City Snowplowing



PAVILION A: **Picnic Grove**

- Capacity: 1-200 people*
- 12 picnic tables under the pavilion – Layout: 4 rows of 3**
- Two (2) large outdoor charcoal grills
- Fireplace
- Electricity available (two outlets)

* For over 200 people, please talk to City staff about a Special Event Application.



PAVILION B: **Island Pavilion**

- Capacity: 1-25 people
- 2 stationary picnic tables under the pavilion; 1 stationary picnic table in the open
- One (1) outdoor charcoal grill
- Electricity available (one outlet)



PAVILION C: **Volleyball Court Pavilion**

- Capacity: 1-25 people
- 2 stationary picnic tables under the pavilion
- One (1) outdoor charcoal grill
- No electricity



PAVILION D: **North Lake Pavilion**

- Capacity: 1-25 people
- 2 stationary picnic tables under the pavilion
- One (1) outdoor charcoal grill
- Electricity available (one outlet)



TAKE OUR LIFEGUARD CLASS TO BECOME A CERTIFIED LIFEGUARD!

The City will be offering a Lifeguard certification class 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 January 2 through January 7, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Participants must attend all class sessions. Participants in the Lifeguarding program must be 16 years of age on or before the last scheduled session of class.

Location:

Sea Level Diving – 269 Liberty Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Cost:

\$195.00 per student

Please contact Alaina DeRaedt at 815-459-2020 x 4288 or aderaedt@crystallake.org to register for the class and for more information.

Minimum Participants: 5 People

Maximum Participants: 11 People

JOIN THE TEAM!

Applications are being accepted to join us this upcoming 2018 season! Seasonal Lifeguards, Cashiers, Marina Attendants, and Assistant Site Supervisor roles are available. For position details, visit the Employment tab on the City's web site www.crystallake.org and complete an employment application today!

SLEDDING

The sled hill, located behind The Quarry parking facility, is a popular winter attraction after a solid cover of snow.

2017 SUMMER STATISTICS

Ever wonder how many people come to our Swim Beach in a day? A month? Or even the whole summer season? The Boat Rental Marina tends to be a popular spot any day of the summer, but do you think you can guess how many different kinds of boats we rent out in a season? Let's reflect back on warmer weather and take a look at our 2017 Summer Statistics.

Beach Attendance

June 11, 2017 - One of our busiest days	2,157 People
The Month of July	27,907 People
Summer Season	64,814 People

Boat Rentals

Total in Season	7,975
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The 2018 fishing expo will take place January 25-28th at the Schaumburg Convention Center in Schaumburg, IL.



Join us and stop by our Three Oaks Recreation Area booth this year!

BY DIANA KENNEY

A PLACE FOR WEARY TRAVELERS

It's hard to imagine today's Route 14 (Virginia Street) as once being an old Native American trail which connected Fort Dearborn (Chicago) and Wisconsin. As settlers arrived in the 1830s, their wagon and cart paths followed the naturally worn trails of their predecessors.

The original Plat of Survey for the Village of Crystal Lake was completed in 1840. This original Plat indicates eight streets and twelve city blocks. One of the original eight streets was King Street which intersects with Virginia Street near today's McCormick Park.

King Street is named after one of Crystal Lake's earliest settlers. Lyman King was born about 1783. He came from New York State to Crystal Lake in the late 1830s with his second wife, Phoebe Williams King. The Kings were cousins to at least two other early Crystal Lake families, the Beardsleys and the Lampheres.

Lyman was a farmer and a business man. The King family was very active in their church and community. Upon arriving in Crystal Lake, Lyman helped to build the first school house. The school was built of logs and was located at the northwest corner of Virginia Street and McHenry Avenue. On May 24, 1840, Lyman and Phoebe were the first people to be "received by letter" into the Crystal Lake Baptist Church. Their daughter, Fidelia, was the first child baptized in the church.

Lyman King owned several city lots on Virginia Street, where he built the King Hotel. The hotel was first constructed of logs. Later, the interior dining room was embellished with walnut beams and plastered walls. The King Hotel was a favored stopover of stagecoaches and fur traders. Horse teams were changed, mail dropped off and picked up, and travelers walked around and refreshed themselves until the driver blew the whistle announcing to all within earshot that it was time to head onward. The King Hotel was located across from the City Park, approximately where the Taco Bell stands today.



Image provided by Pam Fischer, Ashton family descendent

In 1913, William Beckman of Sacramento, California wrote a letter which was published in the Crystal Lake Herald. Mr. Beckman recalls, "In 1848 John Frink & Co., the great stage company of that day, established a stage line from Chicago to Beloit, Wisconsin, which passed through Crystal Lake. The distance from Chicago to Woodstock was 51 miles, and in good weather I used to make the trip in about nine hours, and in bad weather it took from twelve to fourteen hours. I was only 16 years old, and was the youngest stage driver that was employed by that company. We used to stop and water the horses at Crystal Lake. There was only one hotel there, and it was kept by a very congenial gentleman."

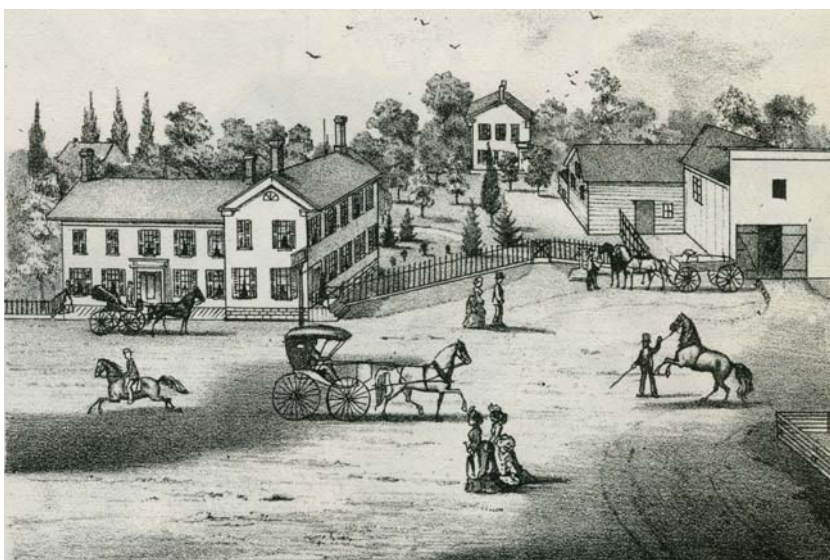
After Lyman's death in 1851, the King Hotel changed hands several times. The 1860 census shows James T. Bradley as the innkeeper. The Bradley family and two domestic workers lived and worked at the hotel. An early newspaper article indicates that Mr. Bradley added the upright (second floor) to the hotel.

In 1870, the hotel was purchased by T.H. and Huldah Ashton and was thereafter known as The Ashton House. Ashton enlarged the original hotel structure by adding on several additions. The Ashton House was called the "Grandfather of all Hotels" and was one of the largest, most elegant buildings in the vicinity.

After the death of T.H. Ashton in 1891, Huldah Ashton and her three daughters continued as innkeepers of The Ashton House.

On November 13, 1904, The Ashton House caught fire. The fire was first discovered about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. An alarm was sounded, and neighbors rushed to help the family save the furniture and household belongings. Incredibly, most of the furnishings in the fifteen bedrooms, dining room, and kitchen were carried out of the burning building. Volunteers used wet rugs, bucket brigades, and any other means to try and put out the fire.

Sadly, the hotel that had welcomed guests and provided a resting place for weary travelers for nearly 70 years was lost to the flames and was never rebuilt.



Sketch found in the 1872 McHenry County Atlas showing The Ashton House on Virginia Street. The Ashton stables were located where the Jaster Building stands today at the corner of Virginia & Pomeroy.

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.



Crystal Lake Police Department

In Remembrance

Please take a moment to remember the thousands of U.S. Service members and civilians who perished on December 7th, 1941 in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Crystal Lake Police Department wishes to thank each and every World War II Veteran and their families in the community.



-USS Arizona Memorial Pearl Harbor, HI

Winter Safety Tips



With the possibility of a mild winter, don't let this deter you from taking the necessary preventive measures for your vehicle's safety. Some of these measures include:

- Inspecting tires for tread depth
- Checking antifreeze levels
- Inspecting windshield wipers and checking fluid levels
- Inspecting brake pads and rotors
- Having a pair of gloves and ice scraper readily available
- Flashlight, road flares, and caution signs may come handy
- Allow yourself extra time for travel

National Impaired Driving Prevention Month

Every day, 28 people in the United States die in alcohol-related vehicle crashes, that's one person every 51 minutes. Drunk-driving fatalities have fallen by a third in the last three decades; however, drunk-driving crashes claim more than 10,000 lives per year. These deaths and damages contribute to a cost of \$52 billion per year.



-National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Additional Crystal Lake Officers will be participating in a traffic enforcement campaign throughout the holiday weekends. The primary focus for this campaign will be distracted and intoxicated drivers among other traffic violations. Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.

Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots

Last year as a collection site, the Crystal Lake Police Department collected over 600 new toys for the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program. These toys were then gift wrapped and distributed to many children residing in McHenry County. Today through Monday, December 18th, please help us continue our efforts by coming to the lobby of the Police Department and donating a new unwrapped toy in the marked Toys for Tots cardboard box. Our lobby hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Together, we can help make a child's Christmas a bit merrier.



Officer Ed Pluviose - (815) 356-3731 or by email at epluviose@crystallake.org
Crystal Lake Police Department (815) 356-3620



FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT

"KEEP THE WREATH RED"

It is Holiday season again! The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department, with the Illinois Fire Chiefs Association, is participating in the "Keep the Wreath Red" program. The program is a reminder to practice safety precautions during the holiday season.

To prevent holiday fires, a wreath decorated in red lights is displayed on the West side of the City Hall at 100 W. Woodstock Street in the Fire Department Watch Office window. In the unfortunate event of a holiday related fire, a red bulb will be replaced with a white bulb. The program will run through New Year's Day.



December is the peak time of year for home candle fires. Eleven percent of home candle fires occur during the holiday season compared to four percent the rest of the year.

One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every four of the fires.

Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department would like to offer these safety tips:

- Check your smoke alarm to make sure it is in good working order. Test your smoke alarm monthly and replace batteries every six months.
- Do not place candles or fragrance burners near drapes or other decorations.
- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Water your fresh cut Christmas tree daily to keep it from drying out. A dry tree becomes extremely flammable. Use caution with decorative lights.
- Never leave home with your decorations still lit and don't overload your tree with too many lights.
- Replace frayed or cracked light strands with Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved devices. Keep pets and children away from electrical cords.
- Clean your fireplace yearly. Don't hang flammable decorations by your fireplace. The stockings might look cute hanging over your fireplace, but they are a fire hazard.
- Do not overload wall plugs or extension cords. If electric cords or decorations are to be used outdoors make certain that they are designed for that use. Do not place electric cords under rugs or carpets. All electric cords should be UL approved.

After the Holidays:

Dispose of your tree after the holidays or when it is dry. Dried out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in your home or garage.

**THE CRYSTAL LAKE
FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON.**



CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE

WINTER SEASON PREPARATIONS

It's that time of year again when the hot, humid summer days turn into long, cold winter nights. Luckily, the past two winters have been relatively mild for the Midwest. Last winter, the Public Works Department responded to 34 snow and ice events that produced a cumulative 25" of snowfall in Crystal Lake. While the 2016/2017 winter season was milder than expected, the Public Works Department has begun preparing for the 2017/2018 winter season. In the weeks and months before the winter weather sets in, Public Works staff completes snowplow truck inspections, and all trucks are converted into "winter mode" with the installation of de-icing equipment, pre-wetting tanks, and snowplows. All of the City's snowplow drivers review their routes and familiarize themselves with new equipment or procedures.



As we enter into the winter season here are a few helpful reminders and tips:

- Arterial streets are plowed first since all side streets funnel into these heavier used roads
- Secondary streets, such as residential and local streets, will be plowed next
- Residential streets will be plowed in about 2.5 to 3 hours; center-lined and plowed down both sides
- When shoveling your driveways, snow should be placed to the left of the driveway (to the left if facing the driveway) as this helps our plow drivers push the snow in the appropriate areas
- Once plow drivers have plowed your road, and if you still need to snow blow your driveway, it is best to place the snow in your yard or in the parkway to prevent snow piles from building up at the end of your driveway
- Snow should be cleared from fire hydrants to assist the Fire/Rescue Department
- Residents are asked not to park on City streets at night. Parking is prohibited from 2:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m.

If you have any questions regarding winter season operations please contact the Public Works Department at 815-459-3614.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING PROGRAM

The City of Crystal Lake, in partnership with Elgin Recycling, is accepting holiday lights for recycling December 1, 2017 through February 23, 2018.

Residents can drop-off their unwanted holiday lights at City Hall, located at 100 W. Woodstock Street, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Drop-off bins are located in the City Hall lobby next to the Finance/Administration counter.

All colors and lengths of holiday string lighting, including mini-lights, C7 lights, C9 lights, rope lights, LED lights, extension cords are accepted. Garland, live greens, wreaths or other non-recyclables are not accepted.



For information, please call (815) 459-2020 or visit www.crystallake.org.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

MDC Environmental Services, the City's refuse contractor, will conduct Christmas tree recycling from Monday, January 1 through Friday January 12, 2018.

Residents should have their Christmas tree on the curbside by 7:00 a.m. between Monday, January 1 through Friday January 12, 2018 to be collected for composting. Trees will be collected throughout this time period, however it is a special collection and may not occur on the same day as residents' scheduled collection day.

Questions regarding Christmas tree recycling should be directed to MDC Environmental Services at (815) 568-7274.



GINGERBREAD FOR THE SALVATION ARMY FUNDRAISER

As a gesture of goodwill and "giving back" to the community, Downtown Crystal Lake has developed a fun way to raise money for a local charity to help those in need.

Participating businesses in Downtown Crystal Lake will create their own Gingerbread Creation to display at their business near a countertop Salvation Army Red Kettle. The public will be invited to view the various Business Gingerbread Creations.



Every dollar deposited in the corresponding Red Kettle is worth one vote. The business who collects the most \$\$ between 11/24/17 and 12/24/17 will be the winner of the Business Gingerbread Creation contest. In reality, the real "winner" is The Salvation Army and all the people they serve in our community.

So here's your opportunity to (legally) STUFF the ballot box with votes (dollars)!!

For additional information and a list of participating businesses, contact Downtown Crystal Lake: www.DowntownCL.org or call (815) 479-0835.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

2018 "Street Stories" Calendar

Stroll through the pages of this beautiful calendar to view vintage and current images of various Crystal Lake streets. Learn and enjoy stories about the street origins and individuals associated with each featured street.

Calendars are available for sale (\$10) onsite at:

- Crystal Lake City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock St., Crystal Lake
- Heisler's Bootery, 50 N. Williams, Crystal Lake
- KaleidoScoops Ice Cream & More, 53 N. Williams, Crystal Lake
- Colonel Palmer House, 660 E. Terra Cotta, Crystal Lake

Also available online at: www.cl-hs.org

Shop Local

Supporting Crystal Lake businesses invests money back into our local economy, as these merchants live and shop in our community. Independent stores recirculate 55.2% of revenues compared to 13.6% for national retailers.



Business Anniversary

Congratulations St. Thomas on 90 years of success serving our community and educating our youth!



Santa House Visits

Children whisper their wishes during their visit with Santa in the comfort of his house at Brink Street Market.



Santa House Hours:
 Thursday & Friday (6PM – 8PM)
 Saturday (10AM – 3PM)
 Sunday (Noon – 3PM)

Santa will be at his house through December 23rd. After that, he has to get ready for his BIG ride!

For more information please visit: www.DowntownCL.org

Businesses Now Open

Mum 117

37 N. Williams Street
A boutique shop that offers trendy and unique home accessories, women's clothing, fine art and books. Each carefully curated item is sourced for its earth friendliness and natural materials.



Bella Blu Consignment

129 N. Main Street
Looking for homemade soaps and soy candles, home decor or furniture? Stop in and check out this new boutique. Inventory is always changing so stop by often.



CALENDAR

DEC
2017

Friday, December 1

- **Santa House Visits begin in Downtown Crystal Lake.

Saturday, December 2

- **Breakfast with Santa, 9:00 a.m. (Old Towne Hall)

Sunday, December 3

- Kiwanis Santa Run for Kids 5k, 9:00 a.m. (Raue Center for the Arts)
 - o For more information and to register please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/santaruncl>

Tuesday, December 5

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

Wednesday, December 6

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

Tuesday, December 19

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

Monday, December 25

- City Hall Closed (In Observance of Christmas)

Tuesday, December 26

- City Hall Closed (In Observance of Christmas)

Monday, January 1

- City Hall Closed (In Observance of New Year's Day)

Tuesday, January 2

- First day for in person only rentals for Three Oaks Recreation Area pavilions. 8:00 a.m-5:00 p.m. (City Hall)

**Please visit www.DowntownCL.org for more information and tickets.

Event and meeting dates subject to change



