The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department will host their annual Open House on Saturday, October 11, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Station 1, located in the Municipal Complex at 100 W. Woodstock Street. The theme of this year’s Open House is “Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives. Test Yours Every Month!”

Activities during the Open House will include:

- Demonstrations of firefighting and rescue equipment.
- Tours of the Fire Station
- Safety House (where children can learn how to escape from a smoke-filled house)
- Fire hose drills
- Fire extinguisher practice
- Rescue demonstrations
- Firefighter skills course for children
- Displays of fire trucks, ambulances, specialized apparatus and equipment
- Display of the Flight for Life helicopter.

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department is committed to teaching fire safety. Residents will learn about ways to keep their homes safe by having working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, checking for fire hazards in their homes, and preparing and practicing evacuation plans with their family. By participating in the Department’s Safety House, children will learn about exiting a burning building.

Each year, approximately 3,500 people die and 17,600 are injured as a result of house fires. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hopes to significantly reduce those numbers by providing fire prevention safety tips to prevent fires and injuries. By learning the basic facts about fire and fire prevention, residents can help prepare themselves and their families against the dangers fire poses both at home and in the workplace.

Bring your family to the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department Open House on October 11th to meet the firefighter/paramedics who are here to protect you and learn how smoke alarms can save lives!
Centennial Closing Festival

Sunday, September 14th, join us for the Centennial Closing Festival from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. This FREE event takes place along Williams Street in front of and inside the Raue Center for the Arts.

Schedule:

Main Stage: (along Williams Street in front of the Raue Center)

1:00 - 2:00 PM  Hip Hop Explosion
2:00 - 2:30 PM  Comedian Mike Toomy
2:30 - 3:00 PM  Mentalist Joe Diamond
3:15 - 5:00 PM  Felix & Fingers Dueling Pianos
5:00 PM  Mayoral remarks, time capsule presentation

Other Events:

1:00 - 2:00 PM  Historic Speaker Series: History of Union Cemetery  Raue Center Theater
1:00 - 1:30 PM  Jason Kollum Juggling Show  Brink Street Market
1:00 - 5:00 PM  Post Office Booth (Centennial Cancellation Stamp)  Williams Street
1:00 - 5:00 PM  Crafts with Creative Arts  Raue Center Lobby
1:00 - 5:00 PM  LEGO Demonstration with Master Model Builder David Howard  Raue Center Lobby
1:00 - 5:00 PM  Baggo Tournament  Williams Street
1:00 - 5:00 PM  Face Painter (Head 2 Toe)  Williams Street
2:00 - 5:00 PM  Jason Kollum Stiltwalking  Williams Street
3:30 PM  Cupcakes  Raue Center Lobby

For more information on the City’s Centennial celebration, see www.crystallake100.com.

School Stamp Project

Lundahl Middle School created a 3D paper quilt stamp highlighting beautiful Crystal Lake, including Veteran Acres, wildlife, and camping and fishing. They show that art inspiration and creativity come from the everyday things around us. Thank you for a wonderful job. Each of the District 47 Schools will be displaying their art skills at the Crystal Lake Post Office through the Centennial year. Remember to visit the Post Office each month to see each school’s stamp.
Beach Closed:
Three Oaks Recreation Area’s swimming beach is closed for the season after Labor Day weekend. Though the beach will not be open for swimming for the remainder of the year, Three Oaks Marina will be renting boats until October 31st.

Fishing Derby:
The Crystal Lake Anglers will be conducting a Catch-&-Release “Shoreline Fishing Derby” at Three Oaks Recreation Area on Sunday September 14, 2014 (with a rain date of Sunday, September 21st). The purpose of the derby is to raise funds for the Crystal Lake Anglers to support their educational outreach programs and support fish stocking programs in the community. The derby will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with awards and prize distributions taking place at 1:30 p.m. The Main Picnic Pavilion will be the derby headquarters and the Peninsula (West) Trail will be used for the competition. The ticket price for the event will be $10.00 per participant at the gate or tickets may be purchased in advance at a special tent set-up in the picnic grounds at Three Oaks on the weekends of August 29th-31st, September 5th-7th and September 12th & 13th from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. The non-resident parking fee is waived for the event with an advanced ticket purchase. Tickets are limited.

Fifty percent of the proceeds will go towards the prize money to be split equally for the largest fish in each of the following four categories: Bass, Walleye, Musky/Northern, and Bluegill/Crappie/Yellow Perch. No aquatic live bait (minnows) allowed. Night crawlers will be permitted and available for sale. There will also be a $1.00 raffle with the prizes being fishing equipment.

For more information: www.threeoaksrecreation.com
Who Remembers Union School? Despite the fact that the school was torn down over 65 years ago, there are still plenty of people in Crystal Lake who fondly remember the hallowed halls and classrooms where they first learned reading, writing, and arithmetic. Memories of grade school teachers such as Mildred Flanders, Helen Gage, Florence Knox, Roberta Phillips, Mary Rockenbach, and Genevieve Stevenson still circulate in the minds of many Crystal Lake residents.

Completed in 1884, the Union Grade School was the first “act of unity” which occurred between the often feuding towns of Nunda and Crystal Lake. Union Grade School was located approximately where Husmann Elementary School’s playground now stands. In the early days, it was known as the “School on the Hill”. At that time, McHenry Avenue was a dirt road with few houses.

Before the Union Grade School was constructed, children from Nunda attended the Nunda School, a small frame building located just north of today’s intersection of Route 176 and Main Street. Children in Crystal Lake attended their town’s brick school house, located at the corner of King and Park (now called Pierson) Streets. Both towns had outgrown their small schools. Recognizing the need for additional classroom space, the two towns agreed in the Spring of 1883 to consolidate their school districts and build one large school to meet the education needs of both towns. Amazingly, community leaders from both towns met, voted in a new school board of directors (James Crow, George Clayson and William Butler), and selected a site with little (or no) argument! In those days, The Nunda Herald, predecessor to today’s Northwest Herald, was published each Thursday. With few exceptions, each week’s edition of the newspaper had some sort of update about the school’s progress. From reading the newspaper, we know 200,000 bricks were purchased in McHenry for the school. The architect was Mr. Burling of Chicago. It took a week and a half to dig the 80’ x 80’ cellar (July, 1883).

The weekly list of updates continues, as the building progressed. In September 1883, we are not surprised to see the two towns sniping at each other – first arguing if the school site was really in Crystal Lake or Nunda. The Crystal Lake group claimed the location and posted a sign, “Future Site of the Crystal Lake Union School.” The Nunda-ites took exception to the “Crystal Lake” reference, and shouts of outrage were printed! One school director, William Butler resigned. William St. Clair was elected to replace Butler, and things settled down again. By November 1883, work began on the building’s interior.
The school was completed in March 1884. Initial appropriation for the building was $15,000, with an $8,000 overrun approved by voters. The first day of school was April 17, 1884.

There were six classrooms, three on each floor. Students from grade school to high school were educated in this building. The first principal (and also the high school teacher) was Mr. J.C. Paul, who recalls his first few months at Union School:

“Early in 1884 I was employed as Principal of the Nunda and Crystal Lake Union School. The new building was completed as I remember in March, and a three month term was taught that spring. On reaching Nunda, just prior to the opening I found some jealousy existing between the former schools, which had been located at the two towns. Many patrons of the schools warned me to be careful to show no preferences in the classification and treatment of the pupils lest trouble might follow. But I am glad to record as a matter of history that I never saw greater harmony prevail and a more united effort made by patrons, pupils and teachers to achieve the complete bringing together of the two communities into one school—one in name and one in purpose.”

Seven years later, the large, handsome new school was already overcrowded! An addition of two rooms was added in 1901. The cost for the addition was $4500. In 1909 city water was brought to the school. Before that, Janitor McWhorter had to pump 90 pails of drinking water for the school children. And he did that nearly every day.

In 1906 a second Union School building was built, also on this site, but further east. It was situated where Husmann School is today. A gymnasium was added to this building in 1914. The architect for the gymnasium addition was a local man, William Chandler Peterson.

High school students attended school in the new building until 1924, when Crystal Lake Community (Central) High School was built on Franklin Street. When the high school students moved to their new school, the vacated school on Paddock Street became a junior high school.

For many years, the grade school and junior high buildings sat side-by-side. The two buildings were connected by several concrete underground tunnels, used primarily by maintenance workers and staff. Occasionally, on days of inclement weather, students were instructed to use the tunnels between buildings.

The original Union School building was demolished in 1948. The old school/junior high building was demolished in 1978 and a new school, Central Elementary School, was built on that site. The school’s principal, John Husmann worked hard to save pieces of the old building’s history, including a terra cotta plaque honoring Lt. William Chandler Peterson, who was killed in WWI. These were put on display at the new Central Elementary School. In 1985, the school was renamed Husmann Elementary School in honor of John Husmann.

Images provided by the Crystal Lake Historical Society www.cl-hs.org

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.
Prescription Drugs,
what to do with them when they are expired or no longer needed.....

For years, the common method to dispose of unused or expired pharmaceuticals was to flush them down the toilet. It seemed the safest way to dispose of prescription drugs to keep them out of the wrong hands. As for cosmetic and cleaning products – lotions, sunscreen, shampoo, and laundry detergent, to name just a few – we don’t think twice about what happens when we rinse them away. But all of these items end up in the wastewater flow, and there is increasing evidence that they are polluting water bodies across the country, including our drinking water sources.

Studies indicate that chemicals from pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCP), even in small concentrations in the water, may be harmful to aquatic life. With more people using prescription medications every day, the likelihood of these chemicals becoming an even greater problem is very real. No one knows for certain whether PPCPs in the water are harmful to people. Researchers are exploring whether the cumulative effects of long-term exposure can cause problems for both humans and wildlife.

While we don’t fully know the long-term impacts of improper disposal of pharmaceuticals on the environment, we recognize the public health and public safety risks associated with misuse or misplacement of such drugs. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet.

So, if I can’t keep my unused pharmaceuticals, and I can’t flush them down the toilet, what can I do with these medications?

The FDA and the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy developed federal guidelines for proper prescription drug disposal that are summarized here:

1. Take advantage of the DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Events. These events allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal. In Crystal Lake, these events are usually held twice a year. The next event will be on September 27th from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Bring your medications, excluding liquids and needles, for disposal to the Crystal Lake Police Department at 100 W. Woodstock Street. This will be a “drive-through” operation, and those participating will not need to exit their vehicles. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

2. Follow any specific disposal instructions on the prescription drug labeling or patient information that accompanies the medicine. Do not flush medicines down the sink or toilet unless this information specifically instructs you to do so.

3. If no disposal instructions are given on the prescription drug labeling and no take-back program is available in your area, throw the drugs in the household trash following these steps:
   a. Remove them from their original containers and mix them with an undesirable
substance, such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter (this makes the drug less appealing to children and pets, and unrecognizable to people who may intentionally go through the trash seeking drugs).

b. Place the mixture in a sealable bag, empty can, or other container to prevent the drug from leaking or breaking out of a garbage bag.

Ilisa Bernstein, FDA’s Deputy Director of the Office of Compliance, offers some additional tips:

Before throwing out a medicine container, scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.

Do not give your medicine to friends. Doctors prescribe medicines based on a person’s specific symptoms and medical history. A medicine that works for you could be dangerous for someone else.

When in doubt about proper disposal, talk to your pharmacist.

Bernstein says the same disposal methods for prescription drugs could apply to over-the-counter drugs as well.

What do I do with Household generated “sharps”? 

“Sharps” would include hypodermic needles, syringes, and lancets. Managing and disposing of household generated sharps safely reduces pollution to the environment and prevents injury and disease transmission from needle-sticks.

Disposal of Used Sharps
To safely dispose of used sharps in the State of Illinois, you may use one of the options listed below to dispose of used needles, lancets, and syringes.

1. Clinic & Hospital Collection Sites – This service may be available at some medical waste facilities such as clinics, physicians’ offices and hospitals. DO NOT bring used needles and syringes to your clinic or hospital if they do not accept them.

2. Mail-back Programs – These programs allow home sharps users to mail used sharps to a licensed disposal facility as a fee-based service. Check with your health care provider or pharmacist, or search the yellow pages or Internet using key words “sharps mail-back.”

3. Needle Destruction Devices – There are needle cutters and needle incinerators available to home sharps users to destroy needles immediately after use.

a. Once the needle or lancet is destroyed by heat in a destruction device, the remaining syringe and melted metal can be safely disposed of in the garbage (not the recycling container).

b. The remains of the syringe after the needle has been clipped can be placed in a household container.

4. Proper Disposal in Household Garbage – In Illinois, it is currently legal to put used sharps that are in a laundry detergent bottle with a lid into the garbage. However, this is highly discouraged because of the injury and health risks it places on garbage haulers and processing facility workers. It is best to use one of the options previously listed for safe management and disposal of used sharps; however, if you do use your household garbage for sharps disposal, use the following guidelines:

- Never place containers with used needles or syringes in a recycling bin.
- Never place loose sharps in the garbage.
- Do not place sharps in containers with a BIOHAZARD label on the outside of the container in the household garbage. Biohazard material is typically not allowed in household trash. Sharps containers with a Biohazard label are usually treated as medical waste.
Back to School

SAFETY

School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation on the road today. In fact, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, riding a bus to school is 13 times safer than riding in a passenger vehicle and 10 times safer than walking to school. The reality of school bus safety is that more children are hurt outside the bus than inside as passengers. Most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related crashes are pedestrians, four to seven years old, who are hit by the bus or by motorists illegally passing a stopped school bus. For this reason, it is necessary to know the proper laws and procedures for sharing the road safely with school buses:

- All 50 states have a law making it illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- School buses use yellow flashing lights to alert motorists that they are preparing to stop to load or unload children. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm signals to motorists that the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.
- All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roadways when students are entering or exiting a school bus.
- While state laws vary on what is required on a divided roadway, in all cases, traffic behind the school bus (traveling in the same direction) must stop. In Illinois, when a school bus is traveling on a four-lane roadway with at least two lanes of traffic traveling in the opposite direction, only those lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction as the school bus must stop.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger of being hit. Stop your car far enough from the bus to allow children the necessary space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert. Children are unpredictable. Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, ignore hazards or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.
- Never pass a school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences.


Sharing the road safely with child pedestrians:

All drivers need to recognize the special safety needs of pedestrians, especially those who are children. Young, elderly, disabled and intoxicated pedestrians are the most frequent victims in auto-pedestrian collisions. Generally, pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections; however, regardless of the rules of the road or right-of-way, you as a driver are obligated to exercise great care and extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians.

- Drivers should not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn. Do not stop with a portion of your vehicle over the crosswalk. Blocking the crosswalk forces pedestrians to go around your vehicle and puts them in a dangerous situation.
- In a school zone when a warning flasher or flashers are blinking, you must stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk.
- Always stop when directed to do so by a school patrol sign, school patrol officer or designated crossing guard.
- Children are the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see, so take extra care to look out for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds and parks.
- Don’t honk your horn, rev your engine or do anything to rush or scare a pedestrian in front of your car, even if you have the legal right-of-way.

Sharing the road safely with child bicyclists:

On most roadways, bicyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as other roadway users and often share the same lane, but bicycles can be hard to see. The riders are exposed and easily injured in a collision. Oncoming bicycle traffic is often overlooked and its speed misjudged. Children riding bicycles create special problems for drivers because they are not capable of proper judgment in determining traffic conditions.

- When passing a bicyclist proceeding in the same direction, do so slowly and leave at least a distance between you and the bicycle of no less than 3 feet. Maintain this clearance until you have safely passed the bicycle.
- The most common causes of collisions are drivers turning left in front of an oncoming bicycle or turning right, across the path of the bicycle.
- When your vehicle is turning left and there is a bicyclist entering the intersection from the opposite direction, you should wait for the bicyclist to pass before making the turn.
- If your vehicle is turning right and a bicyclist is approaching on the right, let the bicyclist go through the intersection first before making a right turn. Remember to always use your turn signals.
- Watch for bicycle riders turning in front of you without looking or signaling, especially if the rider is a child.
- Take extra precautions in school zones and neighborhood areas where children and teenagers might be riding.
- Watch out for bikes coming out of driveways or from behind parked cars or other obstructions.
- Check side mirrors for bicyclists before opening the door. Illinois law prohibits the opening of a vehicle door into traffic unless it is safe to do so.
SAFETY TIPS FOR WALKING TO SCHOOL

Walking to school is not only fun and healthy, but better for the environment! Here are some tips for children to help make sure they get to and from school safely:

• **Walk together** – Younger children should always walk with an adult, especially when crossing the street. And older children should walk with a friend when possible.
• **Stick to your route** – Use the route picked with your parents. Don’t let friends talk you into shortcuts that might be more dangerous.
• **Never take rides from people not arranged by your parents.**
• **Cross the street safely** –
  - Cross the street at a corner or in a marked crosswalk;
  - Stop at the curb or edge of the street;
  - Look left, right, behind you, in front of you, and left again for traffic;
  - Wait until no traffic is coming and begin crossing;
  - Keep looking both ways for traffic until you reach the other side.
• **Be seen** – Drivers might not be able to see you well. Wear bright colors or reflective gear if it is darker.
• **Obey traffic signs, stop lights and adult school crossing guards.**

**PEDESTRIAN SAFETY 101**

**Pop Quiz #1:** Who has the right of way at a crosswalk?
A. Cars  
B. Pedestrians  
C. Whoever gets there first

If you guessed B, you’re right! Drivers should remember that the 2010 Illinois State Law requires you to come to a complete stop for pedestrians in any crosswalk where a sidewalk leads into the street. The law applies everywhere in Illinois, even if “Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk” signs are not present.

**Pop Quiz #2:** What is a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon?

**Answer:** This newer type of pedestrian-activated beacon has been introduced at crosswalks on some of the busier streets in town with high volumes of pedestrian traffic. When activated, the rectangular rapid flashing beacon, or RRFB, attracts drivers’ attention with a pair of bright LED lights mounted on a pole under a pedestrian crossing sign. After the activation button is pressed, the rectangular yellow LEDs begin flashing in an alternating sequence similar to that of an emergency vehicle.

Safety improvements such as the RRFBs are important tools to increase awareness of pedestrians in crosswalks. However, drivers must remember that they are required to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk, even if the LEDs on the beacon are not flashing. And pedestrians must continue to use caution before proceeding across the street, even if RRFBs are present.

RRFBs are currently in operation at the following locations in Crystal Lake:

- Crystal Lake Avenue - near Hannah Beardsley Middle School (partnership with School District 47)
- Main Street – near the Three Oaks Recreation Area Entrance
- McHenry Avenue - near Husmann Elementary, Central High School, and the Library
- Pingree Road - at the trail leading into Three Oaks Recreation Area
- Walkup Road – 2 installations near Veteran Acres Park (by McHenry County Division of Transportation)
- Pingree Road at Grandview Drive
Why Shop Crystal Lake?

Community Support
- local businesses support community groups

Create and keep good jobs
- Crystal Lake businesses employ local residents

Put your taxes to good use
- sales taxes pay for essential government services

Efficiency
- spend less time traveling and save money on fuel and transportation

If consumers spent just 10% more at local businesses, it would add $100 Million to our local economy!

BE GREEN!
Reduce carbon emissions with shorter vehicle trips to Crystal Lake businesses
City of Crystal Lake Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers for 2014-2015 were due on vehicles registered in the city limits of Crystal Lake by July 15, 2014. City vehicle stickers are available by mail or at City Hall, 100 W. Woodstock Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday.

Residents are required to display a current City sticker on the lower passenger side of their front windshield. Vehicles without a current City sticker are subject to citation.

All funds generated from the sale of vehicle stickers are used in the City’s street resurfacing and reconstruction program. Valid vehicle stickers also provide free parking at the Three Oaks Recreation Area.

Preprinted forms were mailed and are required for residents to purchase their City vehicle stickers. If a preprinted form was not received, you must show proof of vehicle ownership, i.e. Illinois registration and drivers license. Prices for vehicle stickers purchased after July 15th are listed below:

- Passenger Vehicles $15.00
- Motorcycles/Mopeds $15.00
- Trucks with A, B or RV Plates $21.38
- Trucks with D Plates $30.00
- All Others $45.00

*Vehicle sticker prices will increase again after October 1, 2014.*

Senior citizens, age 65 and older, are able to purchase one vehicle sticker for $1.00 per person.

The Finance Department can make alternative purchase arrangements for residents who are unable to purchase their stickers during normal business hours. Please contact the Finance Department at 815-459-2020 or finance@crystallake.org if you have questions regarding vehicle stickers.

2014 Johnny Appleseed Festival

Saturday, September 27, 2014 9AM to 4PM

Meet and greet Johnny Appleseed himself, as he strolls the streets of downtown, telling his story throughout the day.

There will be musical groups, dance presentations, martial arts demonstrations, storytelling, and so much more!

The Great Ball Race

Saturday, September 27, 2014 Race starts at 3PM

The Great Ball Race Raffle - Grand Prize $1000

Here’s how the Great Ball Race works:

Purchase a numbered raffle ticket. Brightly colored plastic balls will be numbered to correspond with the numbers on the raffle tickets. These balls will then be released and “rolled” down Brink Street with the fastest balls winning prizes for their owners. In addition to the $1,000 grand prize, runner-ups will receive fun merchandise or gift certificates from participating businesses.

The Race will be held during the Johnny Appleseed Festival on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at 3PM on Brink Street, Downtown Crystal Lake.
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.