

# City of Crystal Lake, Illinois CITY LETTER



## 26TH ANNUAL JOHNNY APPLESEED FESTIVAL SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

The legend of Johnny Appleseed has been alive in Downtown Crystal Lake for 26 years, and each year it keeps getting better and better! Thousands of families attend the festival to celebrate the season, community, and enjoy a variety of apple-flavored delights.

Special thanks to our major event sponsor, Home State Bank, for their ongoing support of the Johnny Appleseed Festival.

Start the day off right! Bethany Lutheran Church will be hosting an early morning Pancake Breakfast (8AM to 10:30AM) to benefit their youth group. The Festival opens up Downtown at 9AM, and there you will enjoy favorite activities including a Petting Zoo, Apple Ride, Wagon Rides, Mini Ferris Wheel, Pony Rides, Children's Games, Pumpkin Train, Pumpkin Bowling, Moonwalk, and Giant

Slide! Stop by the Craft Fair (in Ormsby Motors parking lot) and pick up some beautiful and unique hand-crafted items. The Crystal Lake Historical Society will setup and demonstrate its Antique Apple Cider Press, and bakers are encouraged to enter the Apple Pie Baking Contest. The Crystal Lake Public Library will be offering storytelling in front of the Raue Center. Watch for the giant stilt-walking, juggling scarecrow who will be roaming the festival and entertaining crowds all afternoon.



### Inside:

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**Three Oaks  
Updated Hours**

**Electronics  
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**Ero  
Manufacturing Co.**



## Crystal Lake Police Department

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### September 11, 2001

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A catastrophic and unimaginable event that brought us all together. The level of togetherness, support, bravery, and thoughtfulness displayed following this tragedy showed our strength as a Nation.

On September 11, 2018, let us remember the men, women and children who lost their lives on this tragic day.

**"We will never forget"**



### Public Safety Reminder

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With sunny days, blue skies and warm, moonlit summer nights everyone tends to spend more time outside enjoying the weather. Unfortunately, so do criminals who are looking for things of yours that they can call their own. Property crimes are crimes of opportunity. It is important you lock your doors to take away that opportunity. To help ensure the safety of everyone and their property, Crystal Lake Police Department reminds residents to follow these few easy tips.

1. Lock it up! Lock your doors, both car and home, and close any overhead garage doors left open. This includes rolling up your car windows and closing any home windows that are accessible from the ground floor.
2. Bring it in! When mail or packages are delivered to your home, please bring them inside as soon as possible. This includes items in your car. Bring any valuables you had inside your vehicle into your home for the night.
3. Turn it on! A well-lit home helps keep criminals away, so turn on exterior lights at night to defend against unwanted company.
4. Talk about it! If you see something or someone suspicious, please call police and we will check it out right away. Your tip may help keep you and your neighbors safe and possibly help solve a crime that was already committed.

While we are fortunate to have a relatively low rate of criminal incidents within the City of Crystal Lake, we do experience thefts from vehicles. In nearly all of these cases, vehicles were left unlocked while unattended. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in combating this type of crime by simply locking your vehicles and keeping valuables out of plain view. The fraction of time it takes to secure your valuables may make the difference.

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



# CRYSTAL LAKE FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department will host their annual Open House on Saturday, October 13, 2018 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Station 1, located in the Municipal Complex at 100 W. Woodstock Street. The theme of this year's Open House is "Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere".

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.

### Enjoy many different activities during the Open House:

- Meet your local Firefighters/Paramedics
- Tour the Fire Station
- Safety House (where children can learn how to escape from a smoke-filled house)
- Fire hose drills
- First Annual FIRE FASHION SHOW! (see all the different gear that keeps first responders safe)
- Practice using a fire extinguisher
- Learn about Hands-Only CPR
- Go through a firefighter skills course for children

- Teddy Bear Clinic
- See our fire trucks, ambulances, specialized apparatus and equipment
- Talk to the Crystal Lake Police Department and your 911 Dispatchers from Southeast Emergency Communications (SEECOM)
- Tour the Flight for Life helicopter and talk to the crew
- Stop by the career table for information on how to become a firefighter / paramedic and learn about the local program at McHenry County College
- Senior Services Associates will have information on their programs and resources
- NICOR representatives will have an interactive display and will be available for questions
- Refreshments will be provided by the Salvation Army

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to the Crystal Lake Fire Rescue Department Open House on October 13th to meet the firefighter/paramedics who are here to protect you and your community!





## Three Oaks Recreation Area

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5517 Northwest Highway Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Information Hotline: (815) 356-2447

Rainout Line: (815) 506-9333

Website: [threeoaksrecreation.com](http://threeoaksrecreation.com)

Follow Three Oaks on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

# UPDATED HOURS OF OPERATION

With summer hours ending, the park hours of operation will change. Please be aware of the updated hours as you plan your next visit. Thank you for your consideration and hope to see you at the park!

### Swim Beach Hours

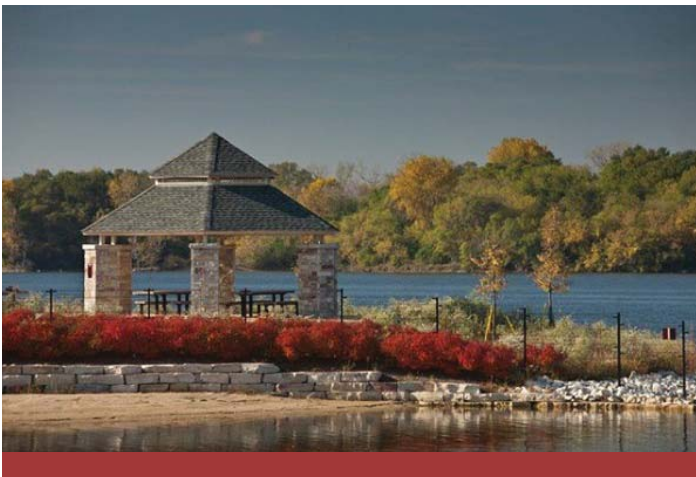
- Labor Day Weekend: The beach will be open from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., September 1st through 3rd.
- **The beach will close for the season on Monday, September 3rd at Sunset. All guests must be out of the water by 7:00 p.m.**

### Boat Rental Marina Hours

- Labor Day Weekend - September 1st through 3rd from 6:30 am to Sunset.
- After Labor Day Weekend - The marina will be open on Saturday & Sunday only from 6:30 a.m. to Sunset.
- Columbus Day - Monday, October 8th from 6:30 a.m. to Sunset.
- **The marina will close for the season on October 8th at Sunset.**

### Scuba Zone Hours

- Sat. & Sun: 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



# CURBSIDE ELECTRONICS COLLECTION EVENT: WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 10-14

PrairieLand Disposal will be conducting curbside electronics collection during the week of September 10-14. Residents may set out a maximum of five (5) electronic items, including a limit of one (1) TV or one (1) computer monitor. The electronics will be collected on the resident's regularly scheduled collection day.

The following table details which items may and may not be set out for electronics collection:

Accepted Electronics Items	Items NOT Accepted
One Television or One Computer Monitor	Air Conditioners
Cell Phones, Telephones and Tablets	Appliances
Cameras	Batteries
CD Players	Battery Operated Children's Toys
Computer Drives	Coffee Makers
Cords and Cables	Computer Disks
Electronics/Mice and Keyboards	Dishwashers
Fax Machines and Printers	Hair Dryers and Hair Irons
Holiday Lights	Humidifiers
Modems	Liquid or Chemical Waste
Paper Shredders	Microwave Ovens
Satellite Receivers	Packaging Materials
Scanners	Refrigerators
Stereos	Smoke and Fire Detectors
Video Game Consoles	Water Softeners

Please contact PrairieLand Disposal at (847) 381-9300 with any questions regarding the electronics collection event.

## PROPER PLASTIC BAG DISPOSAL

To ensure that recycling is properly disposed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, the City of Crystal Lake will be providing information to residents regarding the proper disposal of plastic bags.

Plastic bags from grocery and retail stores are not allowed to be included with residential recycling. Although it is common to use plastic bags to bundle recyclable material, the bags are not recyclable even if there are recyclable materials inside the bags.

Due to recycling laws and regulations, plastic bag disposal requirements will now be strictly enforced to ensure that recycling is not contaminated. This is not a change from previous recycling requirements, but a renewed effort to limit recycling contamination.

There are two options for residents to dispose of accumulated plastic bags from grocery and retail stores:

1. Jewel-Osco and Walmart will accept returned plastic bags that are not contaminated, or;
2. Place any plastic bags from grocery and retail stores in your garbage container for collection.

Please keep Crystal Lake a green community by following these guidelines and bringing reusable bags on your next shopping trip. If you have any questions, please contact Nick Hammonds, Management Analyst, at (815) 356-3675.

# COMMUNITY NEWS



## Big Brothers Big Sisters of McHenry County

**Big Brother Big Sisters** is now located at their new facility in Crystal Lake at 630 N. Route 31. The organization works to provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-on-one relationships that change their lives.

**McHenry County College's Liebman Science Center** is now open! The new Liebman Center at MCC creates a space that prepares all students for a successful future and lead the way for careers in STEM fields. The center includes learning and dedicated laboratory environments for Biology, Anatomy and Physiology (includes cadaver lab space), Chemistry, Physics and Engineering and Earth Science and Meteorology (includes planetarium). Come check out the new state of the art facility.

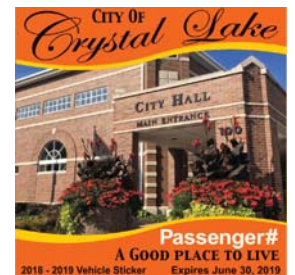
**Cottage on the Go** is now open! Offering all your Cottage restaurant favorites for delivery, to-go and catering located at 256 Oak Street, Unit B.



# CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE VEHICLE STICKERS

Vehicle stickers for 2018-2019 were due on vehicles registered in the City limits of Crystal Lake by July 16, 2018. City vehicle stickers are available by mail, online, 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 vehicle registration or insurance card, showing your Crystal Lake address. Prices for vehicle stickers purchased after July 16th are listed below:

- Passenger & B-Plated Vehicles \$15.00
- Motorcycles/Mopeds \$15.00
- RV Plates \$21.38
- Trucks with D Plates \$30.00
- All Others \$45.00

\*Vehicle sticker prices will increase again after October 1, 2018.\*

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

Please contact the Finance Department at 815-459-2020 or [finance@crystallake.org](mailto:finance@crystallake.org) if you have questions regarding vehicle stickers.

# PUBLIC WORKS RELATED FAQS

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**Question: I am planning a dig on my property this fall, who should I call?**

**Answer:** If you are planning a dig of any type, please call JULIE at 1-800-892-0123. JULIE stands for Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators. You can also submit an E-Request through their online portal: [http://newtina.julie1call.com/newtinweb/e\\_request.nas](http://newtina.julie1call.com/newtinweb/e_request.nas)

**Question: Are tours of the wastewater facility available?**

**Answer:** Yes, please contact the Wastewater Division at 815-459-2020 ext. 4168. The tour lasts approximately one hour and part of the tour includes walking outside. The best time for a tour is during pleasant weather months.

**Question: When is brush drop off?**

**Answer:** On the first and third Saturday of every month, April through November, residents may drop off brush at 410 S. Main Street, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Signage is posted at the site. Brush must be less than 6" in diameter and no more than six feet in length to be accepted. Bulk and bagged leaves are prohibited by IEPA regulations.

**Question: My parkway tree needs to be trimmed, what should I do?**

**Answer:** If your parkway tree needs to be trimmed, please call the Public Works Department at 815-356-3614 for inspection. If appropriate, the Public Works Department will coordinate the tree trimming.

**Question: I have a question about my water bill, who should I call?**

**Answer:** If you have questions regarding your water bill, please call the Finance Department at 815-459-2020.

**Question: Mosquitos are a problem in my area, who should I call?**

**Answer:** Residents who wish to report potential mosquito breeding areas, above normal mosquito levels, or would like to be notified by telephone the day of adult mosquito control in their area should contact the toll-free Mosquito Hotline at 1-800-942-2555.

**Question: There is a dead animal in the street/roadway, will the City remove it?**

**Answer:** Yes, please call the Public Works Department at 815-356-3614 regarding deceased animals in City roadways.



BY DIANA KENNEY

# ERO MANUFACTURING CO.



**WM. (BILL) HEIMAN**  
Alderman 1st Ward

During the 20th century, Crystal Lake's economy was strong due to steady employment provided by numerous factories and businesses including Ero Manufacturing Co.

In June 1936, Ero Manufacturing Co. came to Crystal Lake and took over the building and operations of Adler Corporation. Adler was well-known as a manufacturer of metal cardtables and chairs. Despite having strong sales of a popular product, Adler struggled financially. The Adler/ Ero building was located where the City's Municipal Complex is today.

Ero was not a new name in manufacturing. This large, successful company was started in 1911, and had plants in Chicago, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles. Until the

acquisition of Adler, Ero was best known for manufacturing automobile equipment, golf bags, sporting goods, and other items. Ero's plan was to use the Crystal Lake facility to manufacture a variety of steel/metal products, in addition to the Adler cardtables and chairs.

Under the new ownership, Ero immediately went to work to remodel the Adler factory building, install new equipment, and rearrange other equipment to enable an efficient operation. By November 1936 the factory was up and running with about 80 employees earning a paycheck.

William J. Heiman was the plant supervisor for the Crystal Lake operation. Heiman lived in Chicago, but commuted to Crystal Lake. It was under Heiman's leadership that Ero's production increased and the need to expand the facility resulted in two building additions in the first five years since taking over. New products were being produced including serving trays, camping equipment, and luggage racks.

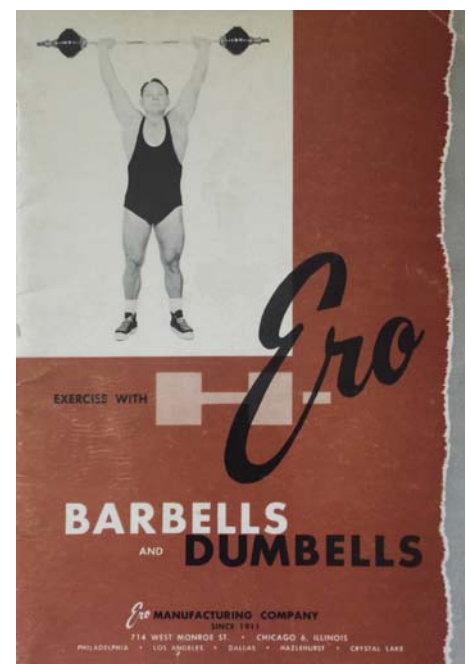
The company's mainstay products were still metal cardtables and chairs. The November 27, 1941 Crystal Lake Herald reports 25 tons of steel was used each month to make 1,200 chairs and 250 tables each day.

Heiman continued to work his way up the corporate ladder at Ero. By the late 1940s, his work was split between Chicago and Crystal Lake. He must have found Crystal Lake to be a more desirable place to live (we can understand that!), as he moved his wife and daughter into a newly built home on Dole Avenue. A few years after moving to Crystal Lake, Heiman was promoted to company vice president with his office in

Chicago. He gladly made the commute, as by then, he was firmly entrenched in Crystal Lake. William J. Heiman served as a city alderman in the early 1950s under Mayor Hal Tripp.



By the late 1950s, Ero was the largest manufacturer of automobile seat covers in the country. Other products being produced at that time included safety belts, exercise machines, hassocks, insulated underwear, life jackets, ski belts, boat cushions, and barbells.



*Image provided by John Wood and Oldtimstrongman.com*



In April 1960, ground was broken at the intersection of Route 14 and Route 31 for a new Ero manufacturing plant. The company's top-selling product of the time, automobile seat covers, would be manufactured exclusively in Crystal Lake. Two months later, William J. Heiman was named President of Ero Manufacturing Co.

All good things eventually come to an end. By 1965, demand for Ero products was down, and the company made the difficult decision to discontinue its Crystal Lake operations and consolidate to its large city manufacturing plants.

Although the company is no longer, reminders of this big operation still exist. The Crystal Lake Historical Society has a metal folding table (with local advertisements on top) believed to be built by Ero in the 1950s. And, from time to time, we are contacted by individuals who are still lifting weights with barbells labeled "H-ERO Crystal Lake, Illinois"



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.

## DEARLY DEPARTED: *A Royal Affair*

The Crystal Lake Historical Society invites you to join our annual trip into a true tale of adventure and mystery from Crystal Lake's past! Ripped from the pages of history, *Dearlly Departed: A Royal Affair* will follow several decades in the life of a debonair and successful businessman. You will experience his intrepid life and his untimely death – meeting his friends, foes and fascinating family along the way! Once again featuring the CPH star studded cast of players, dramatic sets and elegant costumes.

**October 12 & 13 (6-8 PM) at the Colonel Palmer House, 660 E. Terra Cotta Avenue**

Ticket sales begin September 1<sup>st</sup> and sell out quickly so don't delay!

Purchase tickets at [www.CL-HS.org](http://www.CL-HS.org) OR Call: 815/455-1151



## Flooding Safety Tips

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Information on whether your property is at a higher risk for flooding can be obtained by viewing the FEMA floodplain maps online. Maps are also available for viewing at the Community Development counter in City Hall and links to these maps are also on the Engineering Division website ([www.crystallake.org](http://www.crystallake.org)). City staff is happy to assist residents in reading these maps and locating individual properties. If you need assistance, please contact City staff at (815) 356-3605.

## Post Office From your Local Postmaster



In a continuing effort to reduce the number of dog attacks, this is a reminder to all Crystal Lake residents to help letter carriers deliver your mail safely without any interruptions.

### **Please follow these tips to keep your family, neighbors, and letter carriers safe:**

- Place your pet in a separate room and close the door before opening the door to receive or sign for your mail.
- Don't allow your pet to roam outside of the home unleashed.
- Avoid allowing children to be handed mail in your pet's presence, as this may be seen as a threat.
- If walking your dog on a leash and cross paths with others, please ensure there is little or no slack in the leash so that your pet cannot lunge. Pets may tend to protect their owners even if unprovoked.

Remember, dogs can have a bad day too! Let's make sure we keep everyone safe this fall and beyond.

## National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

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While a discussion on "suicide" may be uneasy for many to engage in, we need to understand the impact it has on families and communities, and give hope to those who are struggling to cope with life.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention), over 44,000 people committed suicide in 2015, making suicide the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.

In 2017, suicide was the third leading cause of death for people ages 15-34 in Illinois, while in the same year, McHenry County saw an increase in suicides when compared to the previous two years.

Suicide tears families and other loved ones apart, leaving them to pick up the pieces often with more questions than answers. Families wonder where they went wrong and how they could not have seen the clues.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. If you know someone who has suicidal thoughts or talks of suicide, please call 9-1-1 immediately. If you wish to talk to someone, download the free McHelp app from the Android Google Play Store or Apple App Store where local mental health professionals are there to assist you.

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255**

## Upcoming Events

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On Saturday, September 29, 2018 the Crystal Lake Police Department and members of Safe Kids McHenry County, will participate in an annual event known as Seat Check Saturday. This educational event is aimed at providing parents and caregivers with the opportunity of having their child's seat(s) checked and installed by a certified child passenger safety technician.

Seat Check Saturday is scheduled from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Pauly Toyota, 1035 S. Route 31, Crystal Lake. No appointment is necessary but we encourage participants to bring the child's safety seat, the car that the seat will be installed in, and the owner's manuals for both the vehicle and child safety seat. For more information on this event, contact Officer Ed Pluviose.

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Food vendors will be setup in Depot Park (offering a wide variety of delicious choices) with music by the Corner Boys playing in the Gazebo. Enjoy music and dance demonstrations throughout the day at Brink Street Market. Yep -- There's bushels of fun for everyone! Hours for the Festival are 9:00AM to 4:00PM.

Educator and historian, Steve McPhail, will once again portray Johnny Appleseed. Johnny will be walking among the festival guests sharing historic information about sowing apple seeds on the frontier to establish orchards throughout the Midwest.

You don't want to miss the Great Ball Race which will be held at 3:00PM on Brink Street. Thousands of colored, numbered balls are rolled down the hill on Brink (between Dalzell Jewelers and Goal Line Bar & Grill), with the fastest ball winning its owner \$1,000! Other prizes are also given. The Great Ball Race is super-exciting to watch and enjoy!

Downtown Crystal Lake Main Street is where Hip meets Historic with unique shops, restaurants, arts, culture and family friendly fun. For more information, maps and event calendar, visit [www.DowntownCL.org](http://www.DowntownCL.org).



# CALENDAR | September 2018

## Monday, September 3

- City Offices Closed

## Tuesday, September 4

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

## Wednesday, September 5

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

## Week of September 10 - 14

- Electronics Collection

## Tuesday, September 18

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

## Wednesday, September 19

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

## Saturday, September 29

- Johnny Appleseed Festival (Downtown Crystal Lake)

# City of Crystal Lake, Illinois

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## MAYOR

Aaron T. Shepley

## COUNCILMEMBER

Ellen Brady

Ralph M. Dawson

Cathy A. Ferguson

Brett Hopkins

Cameron Hubbard

Haig Haleblan

## City Clerk

Nick Kachiroubas

## City Manager

Gary J. Mayerhofer

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## Police/Fire/Ambulance

### Emergency Only

911

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## All Other Departments

### (Non-Emergency)

815-459-2020

[www.crystallake.org](http://www.crystallake.org)

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**City of Crystal Lake**  
**100 W. Woodstock Street**  
**Crystal Lake, IL 60014**

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Go green by signing up for  
the City's Newsletter electronically.

Visit [www.crystallake.org/residents/enews-sign-up](http://www.crystallake.org/residents/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 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](mailto:comments@crystallake.org).

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