

Official Newsletter

March 2010
Volume 1-10

CLA Mission

To protect the interest of the members of this Association in the real property owned by them; to endeavor to maintain the natural level in said lake; to protect against water pollution and unhealthy conditions; to secure adequate protection against fire, theft and pilfering, to secure improved roads leading to and around the lake; to protect and promote good fishing condition in said lake; and for such other purposes as shall be beneficial to the interests of said members and the community itself.

Coming Events:

- **Boating Safety Class :**
May 19 & 20, 2010
6 p.m.—8 p.m.
- **Crystal 4th of July Pa-**
rade July 4 , 2010 9 a.m.
- **Crystal Lake Fireworks:**
July 4, 2010 10:30 p.m.
- **CLA Annual Meeting**
July 10, 2010
- **Crystal Car & Craft**
Show August 14, 2010

Inside this issue:

Ordinance 15A	2
Sewer Update	2
Fishing Report	2
Fireworks 2010	3
Boating Safety	3
Logo Design Contest	4
Membership Information	4

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932

www.crystalonline.org

CLA Presidents Message: Steve Meinhardt

– Why join the CLA?–

Spring is upon us and once again it's time for our annual membership drive. In case you are wondering why you should join the CLA and what your dues pay for, I asked the treasurer to put together a breakdown (see inset on page 4) to show exactly where CLA dues go. I think you may be pleasantly surprised.

1) Yes, some of your membership fees do go up in smoke. Literally, the most visible thing the CLA does is organize, coordinate, provide equipment and pay for the fireworks show every 4th of July. On your membership renewal form there is a line for you donate directly to the fireworks fund. However, the fireworks fund doesn't cover the entire cost so dues are used to make up the difference.

2) Treasurer and Secretary Stipend. The CLA takes a great deal of board members time and I commend them all. The Treasurer and Secretary's jobs take the most time and so a token stipend is provided.

3) The CLA joined with the County to secure a grant to pay for a police patrol boat. The CLA also pays a large portion of officers wages and boat maintenance. This has been a very successful program.

4) Water quality testing has remained one of our membership's top concerns. The CLA hires annual water testing as well as doing our own tests with CLA owned equipment as well as watching for invasive plant growth throughout the year. CLA will send 3 representatives for further training on this year.

5) Keeping our members informed via

newsletters, meetings and website. The incorporation in 1932 called for the CLA to protect landowner rights. CLA has been quite active at Township meetings regarding proposed changes to Ordinance 15A. We have board members at every Township meeting.

6) The Bill Willemin Memorial Goose Roundup has become more complex and costly each year but it has been instrumental in helping keep your waterfront clean.

7) The CLA is a member of the Michigan Lakes and Streams organization. Their slogan is "to protect and promote the wise use of Michigan's Water resource". The CLA board receives the Riparian magazine and passes along important lake related information.

8) The CLA maintains www.crystalonline.org website. There you will find a wide variety of Crystal Lake information including bottom maps, township documents, links to helpful websites and lake and community photos. The forum provides an online meeting place where the CLA posts updates. We encourage you to post your comments, suggestions and concerns there. The website allows us to keep members informed and receive feedback in real-time.

Help us help you, please visit the online forum, email or call any board member with comments, questions or concerns.

I hope you will renew as your membership is needed for the continuation of these important programs.

Thank you,
Steven R. Meinhardt, CLA President

Board of Directors 2009/2010

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Directors:

John Beck
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Bill Tomlin

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.crystalonline.org/



Ordinance 15A by Bonnie Kanitz

It appears the township still wants to change Ordinance 15A from anti-funneling to pro-funneling allowing 7 parcels access to the lake for every 50' lake front lot, thereby creating potential traffic, safety, and environmental problems which will ultimately have a negative effect on property values. The good

news is the township has postponed the working group meetings all winter. March 17th is the next scheduled meeting. I have been posting all pertinent news on our Crystal Lake Forum which all members can access. Go to www.crystalonline.org/forum to join the forum for timely news and to keep up on this

very important issue. In the interim, the CLA is in the process of selecting legal representation to assist us. Our hope is the Crystal Township Board will abandon their proposed change since it is contrary to all other Michigan townships, i.e., anti-funneling ordinances!

Sewer System Update by Bonnie Kanitz

The Township Board has been busy this winter with sewer systems evaluations for Crystal and Duck Lake, county plans for a central county sewer district, and exterior building repair and maintenance for the library and township hall.

The significant news coming out of the Township Board will be an increase in Crystal sewer rates. After a thorough evaluation by an engineering firm, our 30 year old sewer system is due for 300K to 500K in maintenance.

Grinders and pumps are due for replacement with a host of smaller items. The good news is this can take place over the next three to five years.

Our Board is very proud of the Crystal sewer system and is taking a close look at other sewer districts billing rates. A possible increase of \$5 per month has been mentioned, but further analysis of cost outlays is required.

The Board does not favor the consolidation of the Crystal and Duck lake sewer system with

the County to make a county sewer district. The Board is concerned that Crystal, with the largest customer base might end up financially supporting the smaller systems merged with it.



Crystal Fishing Report

Fishing in general over the past winter has been, well fishing. We have had our runs of some real hot activity and a few weeks here and there that let's just say, kept us humble.



We had an earlier start to the ice season than in some years past with the first reported walleye coming through the ice on December 12th right after sundown. We didn't really have good solid stable ice all

across the lake for about another 10 days or so but fishing the south cove started right around the second week in December this past year. Currently, the high March temperatures are eroding the snow and ice. This morning, March 9th, there are ice fisherman out! Can't wait for the open water season to start!

Crystal Fireworks 2010 by Mike Dyer

During the year, your Crystal Lake Association board members often surprise folks by telling them that the annual Fourth of July fireworks display is entirely funded by the dues paying members and other generous contributions to the "fireworks fund" of the CLA. That's right, your dues and additional contributions specified for the fireworks are used to hire the display company, acquire the multiple necessary permits. Your generous support also made it possible to purchase the barges used for the display and pays for the storage, launching and maintenance of those barges.

We've recently met with our trusted fireworks contractor and are all set for another great showing on Sunday, July 4th, 2010. The 2010 program will duplicate last year's schedule with the show to begin at 10:30 pm

and last approximately 20 minutes.

Your CLA board members have worked diligently to maintain the quality of show while managing escalating costs by negotiating multiple year contracts. It is our estimate that this saved the CLA as much as 40% over the last two years. However, like many things these days, we do expect higher costs in the future. Our budget this year remains at \$8,500 for the display.

As you decide once again to send your dues this spring to the CLA, please remember to contribute a few extra dollars for the fireworks display if you and your family enjoy the show. The more additional funds we collect specifically for the fireworks display means the more funds available for the other important programs we provide to and for Crystal Lake community.

We'd also like to express our appreciation to two local businesses that have helped and continue to help keep the fireworks display at its current affordable level. First, thanks go to Brad Stone at Stone's Marine. Brad has been providing us affordable in/out service and year round storage for our "fleet" of fireworks barges. Also we'd like to thank Mark Bruskotter at Paddle King in Butternut for his assistance of patching up our worst barge, "Old Leaky". Mark provided us with an affordable repair to the deck and pontoons to keep the display floating for another year. Please support these businesses as well as the other local folks who support CLA through the purchase advertising space in your CLA directory.

If you have any question or comments regarding the July 4th fireworks, you can contact me or any CLA board member.



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Boating Safety Class Coming Up In May

Montcalm Community College will be offering a Boating Safety class this coming May at the main campus.

Learn about types of boats and equipment, boating terminology and laws, first aid, boat handling and accidents and causes.

Upon successful completion, students receive a Boating

Safety Certificate that allows those between the ages of 12 and 16 to operate a motorboat without adult supervision and allows those age 14 and older (born after Dec 31, 1978) to operate personal watercraft. Students must be 12 years old by the time class starts.

Adults riding personal watercraft with children ages 12 to

13 must also have a Boating Safety Certificate.

Dates: Wed/Thurs May 19 & 20, 6 to 8 pm. Cost \$5.

Course # XSAF 150-01." For more info, go to www.montcalm.edu and to register visit my.montcalm.edu and select the noncredit tab. Call 1-877-328-2111 Ext 610 for more info. Instructor is Vicki Goss.



CLA Logo

Design Contest

CLA is in need of an official logo which we can use on signs, shirts, mugs, membership cards, etc. Are you or someone you know artistic? Entries are due by April 30th and the winning design will win \$50. We would like to keep it simplistic in nature and keep it to one color to control costs when used. Entries must be postmarked *NLT April 30th* and sent to Crystal Lake Association Logo Contest, P.O. Box 307, Crystal, MI 48818. Good Luck!

Please Help Keep

Crystal Beautiful

Paper takes 2-4 weeks to decompose. Wax-coated paper, such as a fast food wrapper or cup, takes much longer.

Tin cans take 100 years.

Aluminum cans take 200-500 years.

Plastic six-pack rings or any other plastic takes 450 years.

Glass bottles take more than 500 years.

Small amounts of petroleum products spilled in the water can have a large impact.

One gallon of gasoline can contaminate 750 gallons of drinking water.

One single quart of oil when spilled can create an oil slick as large as three football fields and remain in the area for up to two years.

Please dispose of your trash properly and recycle whenever possible.



Membership: Our Most Important Asset

 by Larry Fate

I was looking at past records of the Crystal Lake Association and noted that we had 286 Members in 2005. Since then the membership has been slipping like the economy, the 2009 membership was 248 members, slightly down from the 253 of 2008.

According to Comerica Bank (see excerpt below from the Great Lakes IT Report) the Michigan economy is showing signs of recovery and I hope this may help to energize interest in joining the CLA.

There are several items of interest to members: the current township board is considering changes to Ordinance

better management of use and parking at the boat launch are being looked at.

We have active members and directors interacting with the township on these items and look for your input.

Don't forget the Crystal Lake Association membership (and not the local government) pays for the water testing, the Goose Roundup, Water Patrol and the Fireworks on the 4th.

We need your support.

Where your dues go—\$35

Fireworks Storage/Launch/Repairs	\$11.40
Treasurer & Secretary Stipend	\$6.71
Sheriff's Patrol and Boat Maintenance	\$5.87
Informational - Marketing, Mailings	\$4.09
Water Quality Testing	\$2.93
Goose Roundup - Permits & Costs	\$2.01
Memberships & Subscriptions	\$1.16
Crystalonline.org -	
Domain, Website, Email and Forum	\$0.82

15a , a plan is underway to make a Bike Path on Sidney road, between South Shore and Pine Groove road and

"Comerica Bank's Michigan Economic Activity Index rose 4 points in January, to a level of 81. January's reading is the highest Index observation since November 2008. The Index for January is up 6 percent compared to the June 2009 cyclical low. "After plateauing for three months, our Index surged in January, with eight of nine components contributing positively," said Dana Johnson, chief economist at Comerica Bank. "The January reading was driven by strong steel production and natural gas sales. Given the severe weather patterns experienced in the early part of this year, gas sales likely outpaced normal seasonal trends in February as well, which should give the upcoming Index another boost. Over the course of the year, the Index should continue to trend higher, reflecting an ongoing recovery in Michigan."

Consider the benefits and please join:

Crystal Lake Association

Membership dues help support important Crystal Lake activities. Your annual dues of \$35.00 provide:

- **Montcalm County Sheriff's Marine Patrol**
- **The Association sponsored 4th of July Fireworks display-the 2009 cost was \$8,500**
- **The annual "goose roundup"- 36 geese were relocated from Crystal lake in 2009**
- **Water quality testing and analysis yearly**
- **Members Information**

Your dues and contributions benefit the Crystal Lake Community in many ways.

Submit dues to:

Crystal Lake Association P.O. Box 307 Crystal, MI 48818