

Crystal Lake Association



Spring 2023 Newsletter





Prominent Township Items

Tim Dorch

Last July, two duly elected Township Trustees (Diane Rydahl & Roger Martin) resigned from the five member Board. Both had been minority votes in several Township issues over time. Their resignations followed after the Board voted down hiring a specific outside contractor to develop and maintain the Township's long defunct website. Town Supervisor Curt McCracken later told the Daily News that the Board voted down the motion to look for cheaper options. Bottom line, the majority and minority views expressed by the Township Board over time had been sharply divided.

By the September monthly meeting, the Township Board having followed long established protocol, had six volunteer applicants to fill the two vacancies until the next regular election. Two of this six were were selected unanimously by the remaining quorum of three.

Alyssa Little, a 1 ½ year Township resident living on Mt. Hope Road, who has a degree in Business & Accounting, and who is employed by Huntington Bank.

Sarah Daily, a 4yr resident living on Strait Tow Blvd, who has a degree in Social Studies, and who, with her spouse John Daily, are former business owners. The Daily Family have been rooted in Crystal since the 1930's.

The three other Board members include Crystal Township Supervisor Curt McCracken, Township Clerk Pat Marek, and Township Treasurer Nancy Johnson.

At the aforementioned September (2022) regular monthly meeting the Board announced that the Township had launched a basic interactive website. This site can be accessed at crystal-township.com, and contains basic Township information including links to elections-voting, Assessing, Cemetery, meeting minutes, and other contact information.

Also of note, Crystal resident John Daily voluntarily records all Crystal Township regular and special Township meetings in the YouTube format and disseminates to the Crystal Comes Together and Crystal Township Michigan group sites. The CLA Facebook page regularly posts the recorded meetings. Thank you John Daily for this great public service for all residents of Crystal Township.

Crystal Park Renewal Project: Wolverine (General Contractor for Park renovation) reported in February, 2023, that the Park project was fully prepared to go out to bid but were waiting for the Michigan DNR (EGLE) to officially sign off. As the primary grantor, DNR has the final approval for everything. Wolverine predicted that the project would officially begin this Spring (2023), mainly on the South end. Major work totally impacting the Park would be suspended for Summer 2023, so as not to interfere with public use in the high season. Work will resume in Autumn. The project will be completed and be available for public use by Summer, 2024. Wolverine also reported that construction costs had been impacted by inflation and Covid over the past five years that the project has been pending consideration. Originally, costs were in the \$525,000 to \$550,000 range. Today (not tomorrow) costs had escalated to roughly \$760,000.

On March 22, 2023, the Township Board held a Special Meeting for the limited purpose of three matters: a) Closing the open window for marijuana licensing and approving the transfer of the Adult license issued to Twisted Sista on Main Street to a new owner; b) Road fixes for the 2023 repair season; and c) hearing a presentation by David Wight, Chairman of the Crystal DDA, in his capacity as a private citizen, propose projects for the community which would tie into the ongoing Park redevelopment. Projects delineated included restrooms, pavilions, additional parking, a Welcome Center, etc. The costs for his proposal exceeded \$500,000 and clearly would add much benefit to the facelift envisioned for the Crystal Lake waterfront. The Board reacted in a very limited way because funding for a project such as described is not available on the Township Balance Sheet and opportunities for State grant monies are elusive at best. The details of David Wight's presentation were reported in detail in the March 27th issue of the Daily News.



Recycling: Crystal is in line for a recycling equipment conversion from the existing bin system to a state of the art compactor. Most of the costs will be underwritten by Montcalm County. An up to \$5000 contribution from the Township will be required and include an appropriate concrete slab and upgraded power sourcing equipment. The new system (months away, perhaps even into 2024) is likely to be relocated to the Fire House area.

Police Coverage: At the regular monthly Township Board meeting in February, the Carson City Police Chief made a presentation in support of his department taking over the police coverage contract for Crystal Township currently with Sheriff Mike Williams, Montcalm County, supported by the Township police milage. Township Supervisor Curt McCracken recently commented that there has been little to no traction for the proposal, and that Sheriff Williams intends to fulfill the existing coverage contract.

Other Formerly Prominent Items:

Community Center – Essentially snoozing except for unanticipated roof repairs to fix the roof fix over the oldest section of the old school.

Go Cart Property – Grant funding not available.

Wind & Solar Considerations – Not on Crystal Township radar.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) – Some ARPA funds were spent to enhance equipment for Crystal Fire, construct a South Pier Park pavilion, etc. However, a substantial nest egg remains as insurance to cover costs for the Park Redevelopment Project.

Potential Crystal Sewer Extension – The Township Board considered a request to complete the circumnavigation of the sewer system in conjunction with available ARPA funds. Following research and due diligence inquiries, the Township declined to earmark monies for this purpose.

Save the Dates

May 6, 2023, Montcalm County Tire & Electronics Recycling, 9am to noon

May 20, 2023, Montcalm County Household Hazardous Waste, 9am to noon

Both County events will be located in the parking lot of Mid Michigan District Health Department
615 N. State, Stanton.





Importance of Membership

Nancy Ayres

The CLA Board does not take membership for granted. We know that we have to earn your trust and commitment every year. We know that you have many ways you can spend your money and we are grateful for each and every member who donates money to the CLA to finance the work we are charged with doing to protect and enhance Crystal Lake.

Our goal every year is to first and foremost help to maintain a clean and safe lake. Water quality is crucial for swimming, fishing and boating. A lake that is regularly patrolled by the Sheriff department in order to maintain a safe environment for all those using the lake is also very important. Controlling the goose population plays into both safety and water quality. It's nice to have wildlife on the lake, but without some form of control it could quickly get out of hand.

We all enjoy the lake in different ways and Crystal Lake offers something for just about everyone. We have a variety of wildlife to enjoy. The fishing is good. It's a clean lake so swimming is good and boaters don't have to worry about weeds clogging their props. We have parades and fireworks on July 4 to celebrate the holiday. Lots of good memories are made every year on Crystal Lake.

Your membership every year supports all the activities the CLA undertakes in order to keep Crystal Lake the place where so many of us want to spend our time. The CLA cannot function without you, our members. While your \$45 annual fee supports many activities, you also have the option of supporting other specific activities. Two in particular I would like to mention are Water Quality and Fireworks. Water Quality is arguably the most important work we do yet it annually receives the fewest funds from members. Please consider an additional donation to water quality if you are able. Without clean water, well, it's much more difficult to enjoy all the activities associated with the lake. Fireworks has been self supporting (enough donations each year to pay for the fireworks) and we would like to keep it that way.

We were so close to having 400 members last year, but fell six short and ended with 394 members. That was still a membership record, and surpassed our goal of 375 members. For 2023 our goal will be 415 members, which may be a stretch, but Carl Jonas (membership co-chair) and I will do our best to achieve that goal. Please remember that you don't need to be a property owner to join the CLA. You just need to be someone who enjoys the lake and wants to help support and protect it.

Remember all that your membership supports:

- July 4 fireworks show
- Water treatment to keep the lake clean
- Goose roundup
- Newsletters
- Facebook page
- Sheriff patrol on the lake for safety
- Annual Directory of lake residents



Water Quality Report

Joe Kopchick

This past September we decided to have a late summer survey for invasive weeds. The survey was completed on September 11. We found sparse A/B level Eurasian Water Milfoil @ 4.64 acres and C/D level EWM @ .36 acres. It was obvious where the previous EWM was treated as we pulled up samples-the treatment did appear to be effective, however new growth is showing at lighter levels.

Treatment was completed on September 22nd. We would hope that it will result in less milfoil when we survey later this spring.

Secchi Disc (water clarity)

Our water clarity readings were very good this past summer, however they may be attributable to invasive zebra and quagga mussels which filter the water. It was noticeable that the water was clearer than the prior year.

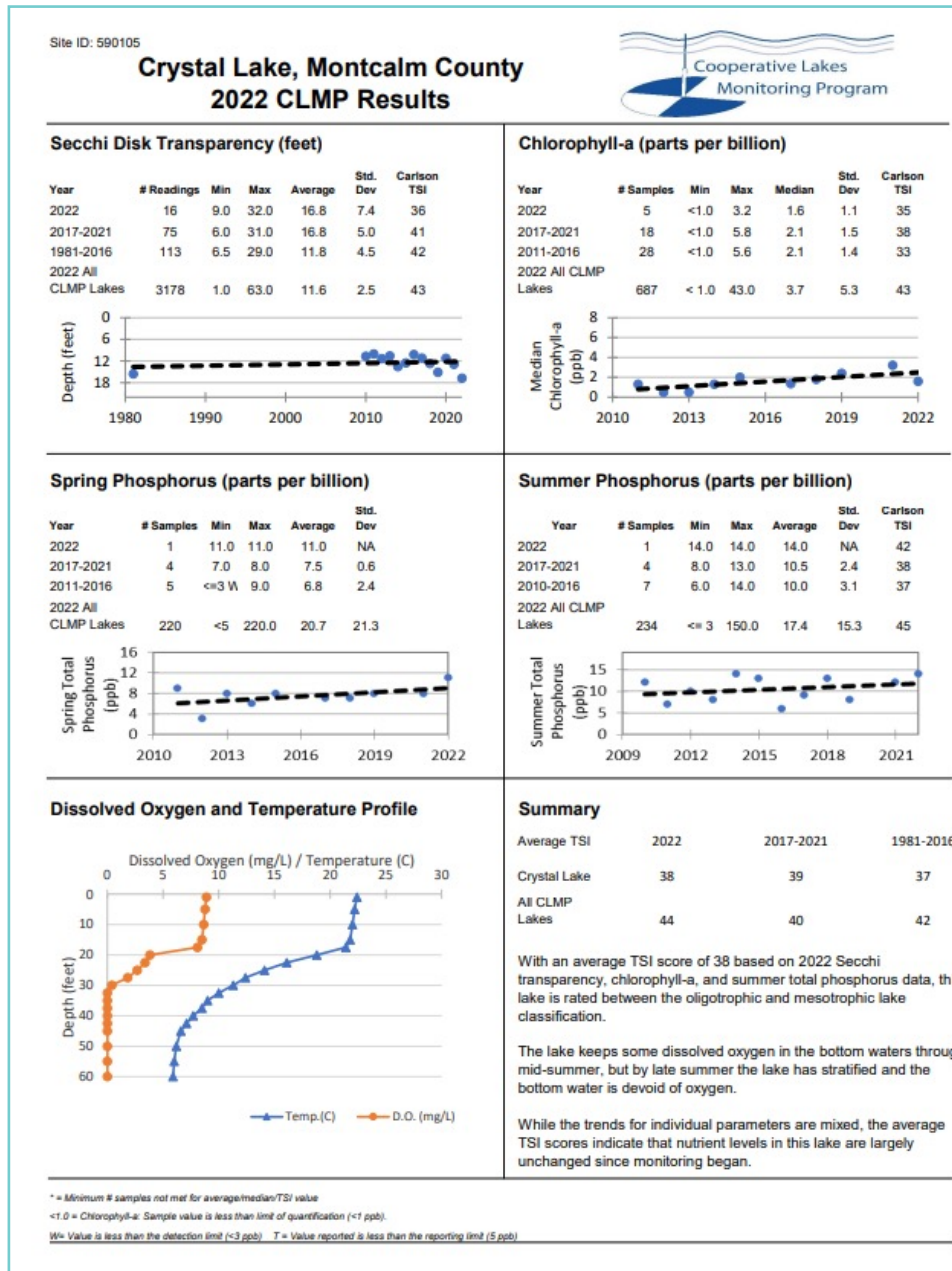
Phosphorous

A key nutrient of algae phosphorous. Some phosphorous is necessary to support the food chain for fish. Too much and we have algae. It's naturally occurring, but also comes from fertilizers in runoff from lawns and farm fields. Since we have a sewer system, leaking septic tanks are not a problem. Cottage owners should keep lawn fertilizers well away from the shoreline. The graph below indicates that we have an upward trend.

Chlorophyll

Consistent with our Secchi disc readings, chlorophyll readings were very low last summer. Less algae leads to clearer water - probably zebra and quagga mussels at work.

Chlorophyll:



Last summer Jim Ayres started participating in Secchi disc measurements and water sampling for chlorophyll and phosphorous. This spring he's taking phosphorous samples. The reports above are the results of our samples. Jim has a background in biology and has been eager to take over water quality from me as I have decided to not to re-up as a board member after the July general meeting.

Water quality has become the largest expense in our budget. We've done a good job keeping Eurasian water milfoil under control, but it is expensive. Surveying the lake to find the invasive weeds and subsequent treatment can cost \$12,000-\$20,000 each time and we are surveying twice, spring and late summer. Some lakes have let it go and find they are faced with six figure cost. We very much want to avoid that and keep our lake from being choked by milfoil. We can't take a clean lake for granted. If you like to swim, fish, boat or keep the property value of your cottage up, we need a clean lake.



Fourth of July Fireworks:

Mike Manning

Can you believe summer is right around the corner and with that comes the Fireworks. The fireworks will be Tuesday July 4th (with a alternative rain date of Friday July 7th.). The fireworks will once again be shot from our barges from the middle of the lake (per GPS coordinates). The fireworks will begin approximately at 10:30 pm (dark).

As in the past, we are looking for your donations to the fireworks show, we have been lucky through your generosity to have the show completely sponsored by your help and hope that this year will be no different. Thank you in advance for your continued financial support. See you at the lake.



Taken by daughter of Teresa Bailey, Sarah Kusmierski



Goose Maintenance Program - Eric Johnson

Goose season is upon us. The lake is clear of ice and The Geese are starting to reappear. We need to prepare for the upcoming "Goose Maintenance Season". Permit requests have been sent and we are waiting for final approval and dates. In the meantime, please scout the areas around your property and adjoining properties and report the location of any nesting couples you observe. We have been informed that the "Goose Roundup" will not be allowed again this year due to Avian Flu concerns, so the Nest and Egg maintenance will be our only shot at controlling the number of geese on the lake. If all of the geese that were on the lake last year return as nesting pairs, we will have a huge population growth this year.

Please take time to scout the areas around your property. When you locate a nesting pair, flag the nest location and if possible geolocate it so that our trained "Nest Maintenance Personnel" can properly monitor the nest and determine the appropriate way to take care of it. If you are not trained, please do not disturb the nest yourself. If you are interested in being trained, please contact me via email at the address below. We will keep you up to date on our activities via the CLA website (crystalonline.org) as well as the "Crystal comes together" blog site. I will be contacting those who volunteered last year and provided contact information. You can also contact me for information or questions at: ejohnson@edzone.net Thank you and enjoy your summer!

Board of Directors

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Steve Meinhardt
e: steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
e: nayres3801@gmail.com

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Kim Morgan

Secretary

Roxy Eaton
e: roxy4msu@yahoo.com

Directors

Tim Dorch
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Joe Kopchick
Mike Manning
Carl Jonas
Kent Roth

Why CLA Membership?

- Water Quality
- Goose Roundup
- Fireworks
- Sheriff's Patrol
- Newsletters
- Township Meeting Attendance
- Lake Association Directory
- Community Support

Membership is easy:

Visit website crystalonline.org or mail form (last pg)

Dues:

\$45 per year directly support your Crystal Lake!

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



CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing City, State & Zip: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ **Contact Email:** _____

Check here if you would like future correspondence via email:

We Now Accept PayPal, Credit Cards or ACH.

Pay to: Crystal Lake Association

Mail To:

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

2023 Annual Dues (\$45.00) \$ _____

Fireworks Donation \$ _____

Water Quality Fund \$ _____

Legal Defense Fund \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Renew online at: <http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm>