



Crystal Lake Association

Fall 2025 Newsletter



Crystal Township News

By Jeff Rayburn

Greetings!

- The Township Board has been very busy with projects such as sidewalk repairs and replacements, spraying various ditches to control weeds, and Community Center improvements.
- Trick or Treat Hours have been set from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Halloween evening.
- Reminder about township Leaf Pick-up:

LEAF PICK UP SCHEDULE

Attention Crystal Residents:

FALL 2025 LEAF PICKUP

They will follow the route outlined below, continuing where they left off on the next day of work.

What you need to know:

Crystal Township will begin to pick up leaves the week of October 10, 2025 and run through November 12, 2025 weather permitting.

Please rake leaves as close to the road edge as possible. Please be aware that if sticks, trash or anything other than leaves are found in your piles, they WILL NOT be picked up. All Township residences can take their leaves to the brush pile located at 3042 Miner Road (you will see the pile of leaves).

LEAF PICKUP ROUTE

Starting on the south end of town (Sidney and Crystal Road) north to Oak Street and as far west as the Lake continuing to the Grove and onto North Shore Drive then Strait Tow Blvd to South Shore Drive. The route will conclude at Duck Lake Waterview Drive subdivision then Colby Road on to Shephard Drive finishing up on Colonel Point. ... and then we will start all over again.

The amount of time to complete any section of this route will depend on the amount of leaves and weather conditions.



Looking Forward to 2026!

By Mike Dyer, President, Crystal Lake Association

As the days get shorter, the trees change colors and we put our lake toys away for the winter, let's look forward to 2026!

This will be an exciting year for Crystal and Crystal Lake! As 2026 will be the 250th anniversary of the United States, your Crystal Lake Association is planning to provide the most exciting, dynamic fireworks celebration ever fired over Crystal Lake!

We've updated our "fleet" of barges with the ability to fire larger shots than ever before! We've upped our budget to accommodate this enhanced show by 20%.

As always, we continue to utilize the best available contractors to monitor water quality and treat for invasive weeds that can negatively impact the health of the lake, the animals and native vegetation.

Our ongoing Goose Management team will continue to work within DNR guidelines to keep the Canadian Goose population from running out of balance.

Our support of the Montcalm County Sheriff's Marine Patrol continues to provide a safer lake for boaters, fishing folks and swimmers!

We also provide the welcoming signs and banners around the lake and entry roads to the lake area.

There's a lot of work in addition to the listed items above provided by the volunteer Board Members and other volunteers.

It's your CLA, and we hope to see your support in 2026. There's a few things we continue to ask to keep the Association useful, active and supportive to our community:

1. We need your support. Please renew your membership. We're currently running

at a record high for membership! You don't have to own property on the lake. You don't need to live in or around Crystal. If you like the community, and or the lake, please join the CLA! We also solicit membership from businesses in and out of the Crystal area.

2. Tell your friends and neighbors! The best way for us to get the word out about our activities and the local value of CLA is word of mouth from existing members.

3. Support our expensive activities. When you see your renewal form for membership, please add financial support to the specific lines for Water Quality and Fireworks. Those two items are the majority of our annual expenses and for the last few years, we've been supported so that they don't come out of our general budget.

4. Get involved! As the CLA is operated by a ten person volunteer Board, we can always use assistance. Please attend our annual general meeting on the Saturday following the 4th of July. If you have any ideas or thoughts that would make the lake and surrounding area a better recreation area, let us know!

To sum up, If you love Crystal Lake, support the Crystal Lake Association!



Water Quality Update

By Jim Ayres

The primary objective of the Crystal Lake aquatic plant control program is to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants while preserving beneficial native plant species. Plant control activities are coordinated under the direction of our environmental consultant, Progressive Companies. They conduct GPS-guided surveys to identify lake problem areas and create georeferenced plant control maps. The primary plants targeted for treatment in our lake include Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and starry stonewort. These three species are highly invasive and have the potential to spread quickly if left unchecked. In 2025, eight acres of our lake was successfully treated with aquatic herbicides.

Progressive also performed a total vegetation assessment to identify and track the presence and health of native species. Sixteen submersed species, two floating species, and four emergent species were found in the lake. The conclusion from the consultants is that "Crystal Lake maintains a good diversity of beneficial native plant species."

Thank you for your support of the CLA and our water quality efforts! We had a successful 2025, but we will need to continue to be vigilant in 2026 and beyond.



Know Your LAKE

Have you ever wondered....

What goes on in the lake during the cold winter months when it is covered with ice?

Well, the answer is that while things may slow down, the activities and changes under the ice are critical to the life cycle of the lake.

Fish common to our lake, like bass, perch, and pike, are far less active. As cold-blooded organisms, fish have their metabolism and heart rate slow down significantly in the cold water. They become less active to conserve energy, relying on stored body fat to survive. They typically move to deeper, warmer (39°F / 4°C) areas of the lake, where they often school together.

Many invertebrates, such as aquatic insects and clams, also have methods for overwintering. Some insects produce a kind of natural antifreeze, while others, along with burrowing clams, can tolerate the low-oxygen conditions in the lakebed.

Finally, perennial aquatic plants become dormant. Their growth ceases and growth from the previous year dies and begins to decay, contributing to the demand for oxygen in the lake.

So while the lake looks frozen and still, the winter freeze actually acts as a natural "reset



CLA Membership is Easy

Visit our website at www.crystalonline.org or mail the form on the back page

Egg Maintenance Permission Slip

I give the the "CLA, Goose Maintenance Team", licensed by Michigan DNR, authorization to enter my property for the purpose of finding and removing goose eggs during the dates authorized by the licensing authority.

Name: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Contact Email: _____

Signature _____

Mail To: Crystal Lake Association Goose Maintenance Program,
P.O. Box 307, Crystal, MI 48818
or Email: ejohnson@edzone.net

MONTCALM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROPERTY INSPECTION REQUEST

NAME : _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE: _____

ALL BUILDINGS LOCKED? _____ ANY UTILITIES ON? _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE NEARBY WE CAN CONTACT IN CASE OF A PROBLEM

WHERE CAN YOU BE CONTACTED WHILE AWAY? _____

PHONE: (____) _____

LEAVE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

OTHER NOTES: _____

The Montcalm County Sheriff's official website continues to offer a Property Inspection check program. The Sheriff's Office has forms available for interested property owners (shown above). You may request a vacation house check by downloading the 2-page form at this web address: http://www.montcalm.us/document_center/Sheriff/property%20inspection%202017.pdf. Fill it out and either print/mail it to the Sheriff's Office; or if you wish, scan/email it to mcsherff@montcalm.us.

Membership Wrap-up for 2025

By Nancy Ayres - Membership Co-Chair

Temperatures are finally cooling off and starting to feel like fall. Our membership goal for 2025 was 425 members and we fell just short and ended with 411 members. We are grateful for your support and hope that you will put us over the top next spring when we will again strive for that 425 goal.

While the summer season has come to a close, we remind you that Crystal Lake is a four season place to enjoy. Take in all the colors and fishing. Remember Winterfest and ice fishing during the colder months and then help welcome back warmer weather in spring. We encourage you to continue to support local merchants all year round.

As a reminder, below are all the things you support with your membership:

- Water quality management for a healthy lake
- July 4 fireworks
- Goose maintenance
- Facebook page
- Newsletters
- Sheriff lake patrol
- Township news

We couldn't do our work without all of our members and we thank you for your support



A Look Back



Crystal Lake Association Board of Directors

President

Mike Dyer
Mdspike@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
nayres3801@gmail.com
Membership

Treasurer

Kim Morgan
mtynestmom@gmail.com
Directory

Secretary

Ivy Coy
Ivythebuilder@gmail.com
Newsletter

Directors

Jim Ayres
lakerboy60ja@gmail.com
Water Quality

Brad Wooton
bkwooton@yahoo.com
Fireworks

Carl Jonas
silkcitysodablasting@yahoo.com
Fireworks & Membership

Jeremy Johnson
Pathos7479@gmail.com
Website/Facebook &
Public Safety

Jeff Rayburn
rayburn.jeff@outlook.com
Township

Eric Johnson
ejohnson@edzone.net
Goose Roundup

Membership is Easy:

Visit our website at
crystalonline.org or mail the
form on the back page

Dues:

**Only \$45.00 per year
directly supports your
Crystal Lake.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO BECKY KOHN

for providing photos
for this newsletter

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

2026 Annual Dues (\$45.00) _____

Fireworks Donation _____

Water Quality Fund _____

Total

Renew online at <https://www.crystalonline.org>

