

Crystal Lake Association

Spring 2025 Newsletter





Courtesy Photo

Township News

Brad Wooten

WELCOME BACK CLA MEMBERS...

It has been an interesting winter indeed. Plenty of snow and ice for outdoor sports, ice fishing, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and everything else! Lots of fun, but as some may say... I'm over winter.. I'm ready for warmer weather!! Well good news... it's on its way!! Along with all the excitement of summer coming, there will also be docks and boats going in and lots of traffic on the streets around the lake. Let's do the best we can to be mindful of the walkers, joggers and cyclists as you travel our surroundings as they are a very important part of this precious lake life.

As mentioned in earlier online posts, the Crystal Township Community Center has taken on a new and improved look. The township officials chose to construct a new roof over the north east portion of the center. It has been in need of repair for quite some time and it has definitely added a newer, cleaner look to the building. Kudos for the township for making these much needed repairs and overall investment in the center.

As reported in local newspapers, there has been significant concern regarding the future of police patrol in Crystal Township by the Montcalm County Sheriff's Dept. It was recently brought to the township's attention, the lack of personnel to accommodate patrolling in our community.

Apparently the sheriff's office has been plagued with a high turnover rate of officers, in addition to having difficulty hiring new personnel to fill those positions. As Sheriff Mike Williams struggles with these departures, the sheriff's patrolling contract with Crystal Township and other surrounding townships is in jeopardy of being eliminated by him as a result. The question remains whether or not he has the authority to do that, according to county commissioners, based on the contract verbiages. As Sheriff Williams is doing all he can to accommodate a realistic solution, he has agreed to maintain patrolling in Crystal Township at 30 hours a week, down from the contract base of 40 hours. Keep updated on this issue with information from *The Daily News* as this involves mileages recently passed to accommodate continued police patrol of Crystal Township. In other news, the Crystal Parks and Rec is writing a grant to the Michigan DNR in an effort to receive \$150,000 towards planting trees and beautifying in and around the parks and downtown areas of Crystal Township. The Parks and Rec has asked the CLA to help support this effort, which was unanimously agreed upon!! This grant does not require any matching monies or additional labor. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we are awarded this grant. What a way to put more frosting on the cake here in our developing community.

Fireworks Update

Mike Dyer

The ice is gone, the birds are arriving, the daylight is becoming longer. We've made it to spring in Crystal!

That means we're about three months from the fourth of July and fireworks on the lake!

We've contracted with a new fireworks company out of Sheridan. Small Town Saturday Night Fireworks has been providing the pyrotechnics at Crystal Motor Speedway for the last few years and we're excited to be using their expertise from the decks of the CLA barges!

We may be adding to the barge "fleet" this year to manage enhanced show and provide additional safety for the crew on the lake.

We ask that you help with the fireworks show with your financial support. When you renew your



Photo by B. Kohn

CLA membership, please consider an additional donation specifically for the 4th of July show. If you have friends or neighbors who are not members, they can certainly contribute as well!!

Enjoy your spring!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

**SATURDAY,
MAY 31, 2025
9 AM-12 PM**

**LAKEVIEW AIRPORT
9223 AIRPORT DRIVE
LAKEVIEW, MI 48850**



Accepted Items

- Oil-based paint & solvents
- Aerosol cans
- Corrosives (acids/bases)
- Pesticides & herbicides
- Oxidizers & pool chemicals
- Automotive fluids (oil, antifreeze, etc.)
- Mercury
- Propane cylinders (empty & < 30 lbs.)
- Batteries
- Fluorescent lamps & PCB light ballasts
- Fire extinguishers
- Smoke detectors
- Biomedical sharps (in rigid containers)
- Fertilizers
- Household cleaners
- Drain cleaners
- Soaps
- Gasoline
- Medications - NOT in original containers

NOT Accepted

- Electronics - All kinds
- Latex paint
- Explosives, flares, & fireworks
- Weapons
- Radioactive waste
- Industrial & commercial waste
- DEA - Controlled narcotics
- Compressed gas cylinders (non-propane)
- General trash
- Construction debris & recycling
- Yard waste
- Tires
- Appliances & white goods
- Microwaves & air conditioners

Services are provided by Montcalm County's Material Management Planning Committee. For additional information, please contact us at 989-831-7504.



Lake Update - Spring 2025

Jim Ayres

For 2025 we have contracted with a new provider, Progressive Companies, for our lake assessments and treatment management. Progressive offers us several improvements in service over our past provider. These include:

- Conduct monthly lake surveys in May, June, July, and August. We have traditionally had 1-2 surveys per season. The more frequent surveys will increase our protection against invasive species damage.
- Perform post-treatment inspections to ensure treatment quality.
- Employ the use of drones as needed to enhance lake assessments.
- Coordinate plant control activities through a website portal to ensure work proceeds in

a timely, environmentally sound, and cost effective manner.

- In addition, a Senior Biologist from Progressive will attend a Lake Association meeting to present a summary report reviewing results with recommendations for future lake management.

Work will begin soon, with the first lake survey scheduled for May 14, pending the weather. As our Progressive representative, Rick, told me recently, "we finally got a real winter". No promises, but that may have some effect on reducing plant growth compared to prior years. We will keep you posted!

THANK YOU for your support of our water quality program!



CLA Membership is Easy

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





Photo by B. Kohn

Goose Maintenance Update - Spring 2025

Eric Johnson

By the time you read this newsletter, the 2025 Goose Maintenance season will be pretty much over. We have our "Nest and Egg Maintenance" permit for 2025, and have a dedicated group of area captains surveying different zones of the lake. I am hopeful that we will have a successful season. We do need to be aware that, most likely, we will see a growing population of geese on the lake. This is due, primarily to the fact that the old system of Goose management relocated young and old from the lake. Our current program removes just some of the young. We will likely see a growing number of Geese returning to our lake. Whether we adopt more aggressive methods in the future will be primarily up to the CLA Board, the CLA members and the Township Board. If you are interested, there is a lot of information on the Michigan DNR site. (<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr>). Just search "Canada Goose" and you will find a plethora of information. Not only can you learn about controlling the Goose population, but ways to manage your interaction with the Geese.

In the meantime, there are ways you can help us over the summer to prepare for a successful 2026 season.

1. Be vigilant around your cottages and note any spots that you observe nesting potential. Geolocate or just mark it on a map and get the information to me. We will use this information next year.
2. Stop by the lake in early spring and take a walk around your area and note any evidence of nesting geese.
3. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.
4. If you haven't already, join the CLA and encourage your neighbors to do the same.
5. Give us permission to canvas your property in your absence. (a letter, text or email sent to us is sufficient).

You can contact me at 607sweetst@gmail.com

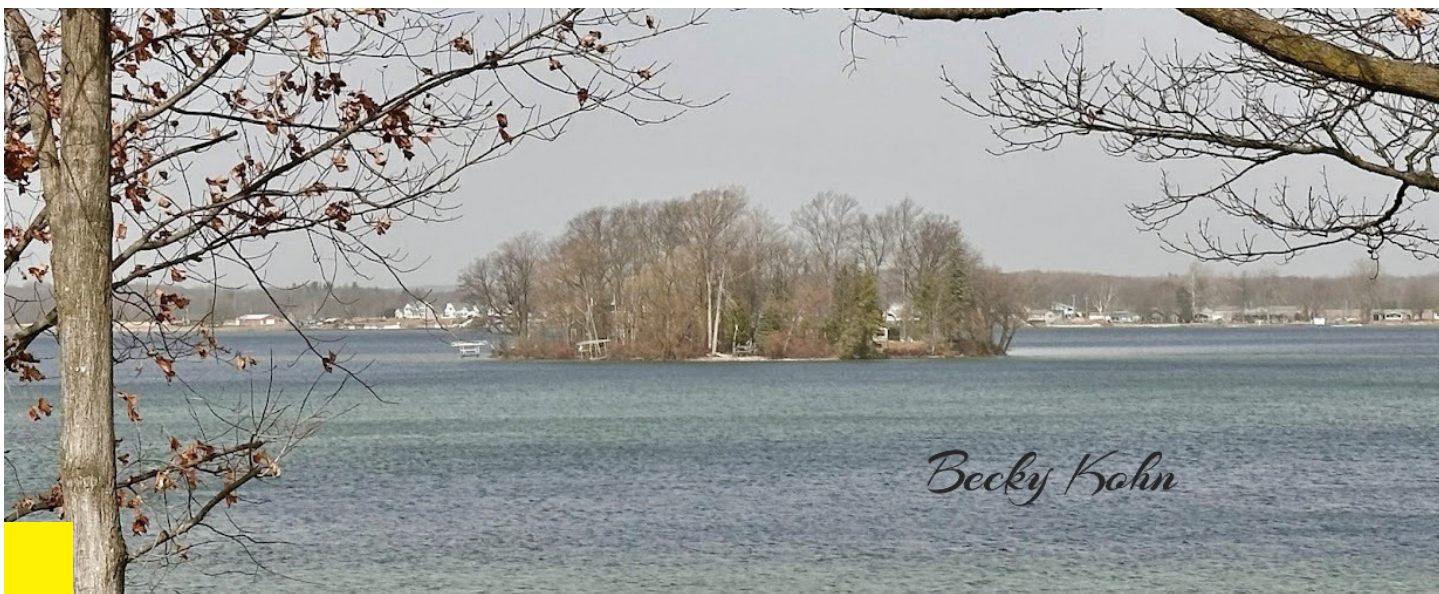
Thank you for your help and enjoy your summer.



The Spectacular Spring Migration of Birds in Crystal Lake

Jim Ayres

As winter's grip loosens and the first hints of spring emerge, the arrival of migrating birds to Crystal Lake is an awe-inspiring sight. Every Spring, millions of birds embark on an arduous journey from their wintering grounds in Central and South America to their breeding grounds in North America. Crystal Lake serves as a welcome stopover point for many of these weary travelers. Some of the visitors you may see, in addition to Canadian Geese, are Bufflehead diving ducks, American Coots, Mergansers, and Mallards. In 2022 we spotted an American Pelican! We figured he took a wrong turn someplace. So grab your binoculars and make sure to take in the action.



Why Membership Matters

Nancy Ayres - Membership Co-Chair

Spring is in the air and summer is just around the corner. It's the time of year to renew your CLA membership, or join if you are not a member. Crystal Lake is a beautiful lake that thousands of people enjoy using every year.

The CLA is here to help maintain a safe, clean, and healthy lake so that it can continue to be enjoyed for many years to come. But maintaining the lake takes a group effort and that's where all of our members come in. Our membership goal for 2025 is 425 members, which would be a new record.

Membership in the CLA matters for a number of reasons. First, your membership dues and additional contributions to water quality and fireworks helps pay for these services. Water quality and fireworks are the two largest expenses for the CLA every year, and neither would happen without your support.

Another reason why membership matters is communication and information. Once you become a member you receive newsletters and special "member only notices" with important information about lake activities. The more people who are knowledgeable about activities important to the lake (invasive weed treatments etc...) the better. We are pleased to say that whenever we call upon members to support the CLA you respond. Correct information is important to dispel rumors or misinformation that sometimes occur.

Knowledge is important, which is another reason why we want to continue to grow our membership.

Strong membership numbers also demonstrate support, and give the CLA a voice. The CLA is often called upon to support other activities in the community. Strong membership numbers can factor into grant applications when funding is sought from such sources. In short, the CLA is a vital part of the Crystal community and with your membership you are part of the CLA community.

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 are forever grateful for your membership and support of the CLA. We take nothing for granted and know that we need to earn that support every year. We ask you to join up again this year and encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well. Our annual meeting, open to members, will be held on Saturday, July 12 at 10 am at the Sailing Club. Have an enjoyable and safe summer and we will see you on the lake!



Dates
to

REMEMBER

July 12 - CLA Annual Meeting @ 10am, Sailing Club.
All members are invited to attend

2nd Wed of the Month - Township Board Meeting @ 7pm, Community Center

1st Friday of the Month - DDA Board Meeting @ 9am, DDA Room,
Community Center

Tire & Electronics Recycling

Saturday, May 17, 2025

9 am– 12 pm

MMDHD Parking Lot

615 N State Street

Stanton, MI



Electronics Recycling

NO CHARGE - OFFICE & HOUSEHOLD ELECTRONICS

- PC / Servers
- Hard Drives
- Laptops
- Computer cables
- AC adapter with wire
- Cellphone with battery
- Laptop battery (tape contacts)
- iPads & tablets
- Toaster and small appliances
- Holiday lights
- Printers/Keyboards/Mice
- Audio Equipment
- Circuit Boards
- Gaming systems
- GPS units
- Memory sticks
- Inkjet/toner cartridges
- Desk and office phones
- CRT monitors
- CRT TVs
- LCD flat-pane TVs
- LED TVs and Monitors
- Plasma TVs
- Wood consol TVs
- Cables and wires
- Consumer electronics



NO items with freon, mercury, PCBs, or large appliances.

Tire Recycling

NO CHARGE - PASSENGER TIRES
ON OR OFF RIM

- Limit 15 tires per vehicle
- No tires over 4 feet tall or wider than 12 inches
- Tires MUST be clean; free of debris and water
- No business, commercial farm, heavy duty equipment, airplane, or gel-filled tires



Services are provided by Montcalm County's Material Management Planning Committee.

For additional information, please contact us at 989-831-7504.

Crystal Lake Association Board of Directors

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kc8sid@gmail.com

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Fireworks

Eric Johnson
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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

2025 Annual Dues (\$45.00) _____

Fireworks Donation _____

Water Quality Fund _____

Total

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