

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.

Advertising Sponsors Accepted

Would your business like to sponsor an upcoming issue? Sponsor fees help defray publication costs of the CLA Newsletters. Contact roxy4msu@yahoo.com

Curbside Leaf Pickup Through October

Leaves in piles near the roadway will be picked up throughout the season. No branches, trash or stones!

Questions? Contact Roger Gooding
Crystal Township Office
(989) 235-4800

Away for the Winter

You can request property inspections by the Montcalm Sheriff's Department
(see page 3)

There's Still Time!

Renew your 2018 support for the work of the Crystal Lake Association today!
(see last page)

Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932

www.crystalonline.org

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

More than 8" of August rain brought consequences for some boat owners, both good and bad. Crystal Lake levels rose markedly, generally a good thing in late summer, but not for all.

Those of us who worry that our watercraft may not float off our lifts in the dry doldrums of summer were happy about higher water levels. For some though, the higher water proved disastrous. Pontoons and at least one paddle boat floated free of their moorings and set adrift, without the consent of their owners. We do not know how many watercraft were affected, but we do know of the neighborly gestures of a few people and at the risk of omitting others who also took initiative, here are a few stories:



Brad Stone, Stone's Marine Storage (CLA Supporter) picked up at least three pontoons bouncing around the shoreline. Kudos to Brad for taking the initiative.

Past and present CLA Board Members **Bill Tomlin** and **Joe Kopchick** towed an adrift pontoon to a safe mooring and then engaged the Montcalm Sheriff's Office to help identify the owner. Kudos to Bill and Joe and thanks to **Sheriff Mike Williams** and **Deputy Bryan Snyder** for identifying the owner.

CLA member Bill Tomlin had tied down another pontoon earlier, adrift on the North Shore, and called the Montcalm County Sheriff.

The actions taken by the above, and likely unknown others, exemplify neighbors looking out for neighbors and after all ...isn't that what makes a community great?

Township Meeting Buzz

Montcalm County Hazardous Waste collection is scheduled for Oct 20 at the Mid-Michigan District Health Department, 615 N State St., Stanton from 9am to 1pm.

The **Crystal Library** targets Nov 2018 to open. Although not certain, there was said be a strong probability that this timeframe will work.

Montcalm County Deputy Sheriff

Justin Schafer assumed the Crystal Township beat on Sept 1 from **Deputy Bryan Snyder** who was reassigned to Howard City. Deputy Schafer covered Crystal Twp last winter. He also brings his canine team member with him which enhances coverage and effectiveness in the territory. He urged 'snowbirds' to consider the cottage check program while away by calling the Sheriff's Office at (989) 831-7590 to get on the list. Additionally, he urged that we each personally look out for our neighbors too.

The **Community Center Committee** provided insight into the direction of their collective thinking. This committee was formed by the Township Board in July following a town-wide discussion about the high cost of current and future maintenance of the 'old school' which now houses township offices, meeting space etc. Some issues under scrutiny include a) Staying the course with current maintenance expenditures of \$26 thousand annually and with major repairs soon to come, b) Reducing the footprint with a combination of demolition and new construction, and/or d) Relocating to another site. This is the beginning of the process and the Committee is open to ideas from Crystal at large. In the meantime, they will begin a cost analysis of various options. Year-round lake resident and CLA member Diane Rydahl was the committee spokesperson.

There has been no recent public debate by the Crystal Township Board regarding **township wide trash pick-up and recycling**. The Crystal Lake Association has requested that the issue be reviewed, but no action has been taken in more than a year.

Board Directors 2018-19

President

Steve Meinhardt
steve@casair.net

Vice President

Nancy Ayres
nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kim Morgan

Secretary

Roxy Eaton

Directors:

Tim Dorch
Fred Engle
Joe Kopchick
Mike Manning
Cheryl McNeil
Kent Roth

Why CLA Membership?

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

Membership is easy:

visit website

crystalonline.org

or

mail form (page 6)

or

call 616-901-3961

for pick-up!

Dues = \$45 per year
**directly support your
Crystal lake!**

Water Quality 2018 Status Report

On Sept 13th, the last Secchi Disc **transparency reading** of the year was taken by J. Kopchick, B. Kanitz, and T. Dorch. Weekly since May, the black and white disc has been lowered into the lake to assess water clarity. Although suspended particles in water including algae and sediment are normal, if excessive, they can block sunlight and restrict plant growth, disturbing the lake's ecosystem. Usually, algae growth and turbidity from boats increase during the summer and clarity declines. The first 2018 reading was 23 ft and the last, 8.5 ft. The equivalent 2017 readings were 12.5 and 9, respectively.

Water samples were obtained for **phosphorous and chlorophyll levels**. Phosphorous, an important element of the food chain within a lake, can either be too low, causing lack of biological productivity or too high, causing algae blooms and insufficient dissolved oxygen in the water. Chlorophyll concentration is a way of measuring algae biomass. It is naturally present in all healthy lakes and determines the amount of food available to fuel the lake's food web. Too little chlorophyll may indicate insufficient food to support an abundant biological communi-

ty and too much may cause algae to sink to the bottom, decay, and deplete the water of oxygen.

Crystal Lake measurements are posted to the Michigan Lakes and Streams web site: <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/> Click on the "Lake Monitoring" tab to see a more detailed explanation of the results. On the "Data Exchange" tab, you can **see results from Crystal and compare them to other lakes**. While we have yet to receive this year's results, last spring and late summer phosphorous readings were 7 and 9 ppb. In comparison, Derby Lake had a spring 2017 reading of 9 but the late summer reading was rejected. For chlorophyll, our 2017 June, August, and September readings were 1, < 1, and 1.9 respectively. Derby Lake had 1.8, 1, and 2.2 for the same months. Bostwick Lake last year had phosphorous of 10 in the spring and 15 late summer. Their chlorophyll was much higher at 2.6, 4.4, and 4.4. In all, our results are better than many lakes.

Lastly, Crystal's post-treatment **weed survey** indicates that the summer's treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil was effective. Only two new areas, amounting to 0.7 acres along the west side of the lake at the drop off point, need to be treated.

Township Board Asked About Keyholing

The issue known as funneling/keyholing had been dormant in Crystal Township since 2012 until the September 12, 2018 Township Board meeting. During the public comment phase of the meeting, a lake resident complained that a neighbor had installed an extended dock which is now occupied by a number of moored watercraft for which rental fees are charged.

Unlike existing state licensed marinas on Crystal Lake, such as the Crystal Lake Sailing Club, South Shore Campground, and the Crystal Lake Yacht Club, it was alleged that there had been no attempt to engage the process for obtaining State approvals. The dock extension with moored watercraft was said to impair the complainant's view of Crystal Lake.

The complainant spoke generally about the absence of a simple enforcement remedy. She said that her research thus far to find a State based solution has not led to a viable approach. She was aware that Crystal Township had no ordi-

nance.

The Township Supervisor said he was aware of the situation and that he had made several contacts without successful outcomes.

The CLA representative commented that its Board unanimously supports an Anti-Funneling/Keyholing Ordinance and would be making a future request for the Crystal Township Board to revisit the issue; that the last CLA request (Sept 2012) was not given an up or down vote because of then pending litigation which has subsequently run through the appeals process and was no longer an obstacle; and that Crystal was a striking exception to the statewide norm in that it had an ordinance which the Township rescinded but never restored. Crystal is in the minority of lakes statewide which has no anti-funneling ordinance.

In response, the Township Supervisor urged caution due the potential for unintended consequences in prospective ordinance language.

Membership Update

The summer may be over but Crystal Lake has three more seasons to enjoy! Fishing, boating, canoeing, and kayaking can be even better with fewer boats on the lake. Migrating birds can be seen traveling south for the winter. Campfires are cozier with a chill in the air and once the lake has frozen, ice fishing becomes a favorite activity along with family fun at the annual Crystal Winterfest celebration.

The work of your CLA board members continues all year as well. It's a constant process to attract more members to help share in the financial responsibilities of keeping Crystal Lake the beautiful, clean, and safe place we continue to enjoy year after year. With fewer than 100% of lake users as members of the CLA, opportunity exists! Just as your annual living expenses continue to rise, so do the costs of our

big annual expenses such as fireworks and water treatments. While it's true that we have made great, positive strides in treating for invasive species in the lake, it will be an annual expense for the foreseeable future and truly an investment in the health of the lake.

For the 290 individuals and families who supported the work of the CLA in 2018, "Thank you!" You fund the work of the CLA and we couldn't begin to do it without you. We fell just short of our 300 member goal for the year and will be exploring ways to increase membership in 2019. We will focus efforts on some of the larger organizations on the lake such as the South Shore Campground and the Crystal Lake Yacht Club.

Wishing you each, a safe and happy fall and winter. See you in the spring!

Away for the Winter Months?

You can request inspections of your property by the Sheriff's Office

Download the complete form at http://www.montcalm.us/government/sheriff/house_check_form.php

Email or mail as directed on the website

(UNOFFICIAL - FOR ILLUSTRATION ONLY!)

MONTCALM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PROPERTY INSPECTION REQUEST

NAME : _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE: _____

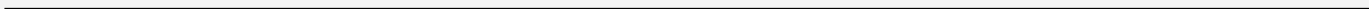
ALL BUILDINGS LOCKED? _____ ANY UTILITIES ON? _____

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: _____



Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

**LIKE! Crystal Lake Association
On Facebook & Let's be Friends**

CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Mailing City, State & Zip _____

Crystal Address _____

Contact Phone _____ Email _____

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL _____

**WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL,
CREDIT CARDS or ACH. Pay
to: Crystal Lake Association**

2018 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00)	\$ _____
Fireworks Donation (2018 Target \$9000)	\$ _____
Water Quality Fund (2018 Target \$11,000)	\$ _____
Legal Defense Fund	\$ _____

Mail To:
Crystal Lake Association (CLA)
PO Box 307, Crystal MI 48818

Total \$ _____

Renew online at:

<http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm>