

2021



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2020 Annual Reports

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Village of Lakewood, IL

Annual Report 2020





2021 State of the Community Address

Incorporated on July 10, 1933, the Village of Lakewood is situated approximately 50 miles northwest of the City of Chicago. It is bounded by the City of Crystal Lake, Village of Lake in the Hills, City of Woodstock, and Village of Huntley. At the time of incorporation the Village of Lakewood had 125 residents as confirmed with the 1940 United States Census. The founders consisted of Chicago business men who built vacation homes as well as magnificent estates along the shores of Crystal Lake. The area incorporated consisted of 333 acres (1/2 square mile) and included what is commonly known as the Country Club Additions, open area west of Huntley Road, Grafton Park (now known as West Beach), and ½ of the lake. Today, the lake is still situated in part in the Village of Lakewood and the City of Crystal Lake.

Since that time, the Village has expanded its borders and is now 5 square miles which includes many options for residential living, 6 lakes, 4 golf courses, and several natural areas including wetlands and the Kishwaukee Fen Nature Preserve (pictured below).



The population count as of the 2010 decennial census is 3,811 and the Village anticipates an increase in population as a result of the 2020 decennial census. The type of government is a Village President and Trustee form of government in which trustees are elected at large to the Board.

The Village is professionally managed by a Chief Administrative Officer who is charged with enforcing the policies and procedures adopted by the Village Board.

In 1995 the Village of Lakewood adopted a mission statement to guide the implementation of its vision. It seeks to:

1. Provide quality services with affordable taxes;
2. Provide responsible growth through controlled, acceptable residential and commercial development;
3. Maintain and enhance the natural beauty of the Village;
4. Encourage resident participation in Village government;
5. Maintain an effective level of Village communication;
6. Pursue and maintain effective, responsible intergovernmental relations.

The specificity of this mission statement allows for a clear translation into the goals and objectives which have guided the community since that time.



Administration and Finance

In its ongoing effort to improve efficiencies, the Village implemented a new accounting, utility billing and building permitting software program. This software eliminated antiquated processes, improves communication with employees and provides data analytics for better resource management. In 2021, the Village will be seeking quotes for a new website platform that better organizes information; allowing for a better experience for our residents and visitors alike.

Economic Development



In 2019, the Village Board approved an incentive in the form of suspended Impact Fees for a year to attract home builders to the area in an effort to reduce the inventory of vacant residential lots. This program was met with such great interest by local builders that it was extended to November 30, 2020 and occupancy permits more than doubled year over year! Pictured here is Village President Phil Stephan reviewing plans for a new home with builder Kristen Realmuto of Lighthouse Custom Builders. Lighthouse took advantage of the incentive and intends to continue building in the Village as a result of this newly formed relationship.

Additionally, the Village has acquired numerous parcels of land over time; some of which are located on RedTail Drive. As of 1/12/21, the Village is in contract for the sale of over 80% of those lots.

Last year, Village President Phil Stephan reported to the Chamber that a new business opportunity was heading our way. After considerable discussion and deliberation, the Village Board approved the sale of 10 acres of land at the intersection of Routes 47 and 176.

The Oasis 176/47 began grading and is destined to open in the fall of this year. This the Village's largest commercial development project to date.





New Business! President Phil Stephan and CAO Smith welcomed Excelsior Salon & Spa to its new home at 8505 RedTail Drive in early 2020. Excelsior is a full service salon located in Lakewood Commons (near Lou Malnati's). For more information please call 815-321-2099 or on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Excelsior-Salon-And-Spa-112016157060167/>

Lakewood Commons has two spaces available. **If you are (or someone you know is) interested in leasing information, please reach out to Annette Reiter at 847-289-7500.**



Parks and Recreation

The Village is excited to announce its collaboration with the Crystal Lake Park District to build park and trail amenities along Haligus Road. The property consists of 9.75 acres along Haligus Road (depicted below) and is located south of the Village of Lakewood Public Works facility and east of the Woodland Hills subdivision. President Stephan reports that the concept plan is underway and will be presented to the public in the coming months.



Public Safety



Interim Chief Lou Rossi began working with the Village on January 2, 2021 as a consultant to assist the Village Board with the creation of operating procedures, hiring of new personnel, and implementation of an on-going training program for our officers.

When asked what Chief Rossi brings to the table, **President Phil Stephan stated that, “Chief Rossi is a highly accomplished law enforcement leader with diverse experience in executive management, personnel management, employee relations, conflict resolution, recruitment, and training.”**

The Board is confident he has the ability to motivate personnel to work in a collaborative team environment and with political entities and community members to achieve common goals.

President Phil Stephan introduced the Village's first **Traffic Calming Policy** on November 24th. The Board endorsed the policy as a way to lower vehicle speeds on neighborhood streets without restricting access. Traffic calming measures have been proven to reduce cut-through traffic or through-truck traffic where motorists or truckers use neighborhood streets to avoid and bypass other nearby roads. This policy standardizes department practices in an effort to create human-scale places, and an environment friendly to people on foot in order to improve the livability in our neighborhoods.

Finally, while COVID-19 limited police officer contact with Village residents and those travelling within the Village boundaries, **we did see a positive outcome in the form of a 30% decrease in accidents for the year!**

Public Works

These last few years in our section of the County have been challenging due to increasing heavy storm events which have caused flooding – even in areas that do not traditionally flood. In 2020, the Village made a significant equipment purchase in the form of a Vactor Truck to address these hazardous events.

Additionally, this tool will be used for sanitary and storm sewer televising and cleaning, lift station cleaning, and hydro





excavation when fixing water main breaks or when working on other maintenance projects.

For many small communities, this type of work is performed by contractors which can be very expensive and inefficient as the municipality is subject to the contractor's schedule. In 2019 our contracted vactor projects included:

- \$4,500.00 to contract for services to clean lift stations
- \$50,444 to clean and televise 23,150 linear feet of sanitary sewer main in the Gates area last summer; that's 15% of the 30 miles of sanitary sewer pipe in our system
- \$12,000 to clean 10 blocks (an estimated 3,000 linear feet) of storm sewer on Broadway

In total, the Village spent \$66,944 for Vactor services in one year which is equal to the annual payment for a new vactor.

As we break even at 7 years (the vactor's lifespan is 20 years), the purchase of this new tool will save the Village well over \$500,000.

RedTail Golf Club



RedTail started the season off with a bang when it was again voted **Best of the Fox Golf Course** in McHenry County! We are thankful for the ongoing support of our golf community.

To assist Golf Manager Kenny Goodwin with operations, Jim Rafferty was hired as

RedTail's Golf Pro. Jim brought a new level of play to the Club and quickly became highly sought out for his skillsets. It is rumored that he can fix your slice in one lesson!



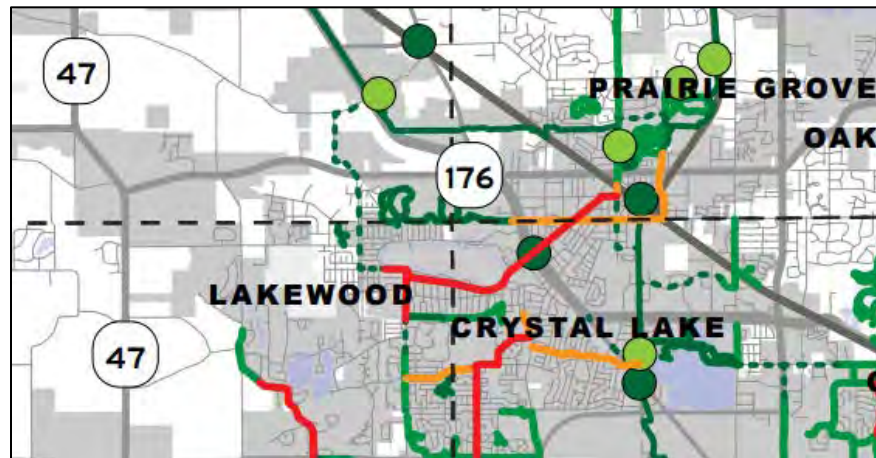
This management team made changes to the physical space and incorporated business efficiencies resulting in improved margins and doubled sales figures over the prior year!

RedTail looks forward to a quick spring opening and welcomes back its residents from the Village of Lakewood, Village of Lake in the Hills and the Crystal Lake Park District in 2021!



Transportation

CAO Smith has been asked to sit on the McHenry County Sub Regional Bike Plan Committee. The McHenry County Council of Mayors in partnership with the McHenry County Division of Transportation is conducting a pedestrian, bicycle, and trails master plan for McHenry County.



The plan, known as ***The McHenry County Connection***, will take a comprehensive look at ***McHenry County's existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities and provide recommendations on how to improve the system for all users.*** Public input is greatly appreciated! Please log onto our website at <http://mchenrycountyconnection.com/>

In 2021, the Village will be ***resurfacing Haligus Road*** between Lakewood Road and the Village limits to the north (just past Ballard Road) ***thanks to a Surface Transportation Grant*** through the McHenry County Council of Mayors; ***without which this \$900,000 project would not be possible.***

Also, the Village is pleased to announce the Route 47 corridor will be the focus of considerable construction in the next few years. ***In 2021, there will be a bridge replacement over the Kishwaukee River.***





Finally, the Village of Lakewood received notice from IDOT that ***the realignment of the IL 47/176 Intersection with Pleasant Valley Road project is in Phase II***. Plans are underway and we are waiting on permits. Construction is expected to commence in 2022.



***Thank you for this opportunity to present
Lakewood's State of the Community Report***

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2021!



VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD CONTACT INFORMATION

You may obtain more information about the Village of Lakewood, its services and upcoming events by visiting our website at www.village.lakewood.il.us, registering for **Constant Contact** by clicking on *Sign Up Now* and **textCaster** on our website's homepage; and by liking us on **Facebook**.



VILLAGE PRESIDENT

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INTERIM POLICE CHIEF

Louis Rossi
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VILLAGE HALL

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Phone: (815) 459-3025
Email: info@village.lakewood.il.us
Web: www.village.lakewood.il.us

Hours: Monday through Friday
8:30am - 4:30pm

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2500 Lake Avenue, Lakewood, IL 60014

FOR EMERGENCIES ALWAYS DIAL 911
Non Emergency: (815) 459-2151

PUBLIC WORKS

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Email: info@village.lakewood.il.us

REDTAIL GOLF CLUB

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REDTAIL MANAGER

Kenny Goodwin
kgoodwin@redtailgolf.com

REDTAIL GOLF PRO

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City of Crystal Lake, IL

Annual Report 2020



State of the Community 2021



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting.

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

This is the 29th year in a row that the City has received this award.



The City of Crystal Lake has a rich history, rewarding quality of life and tremendous community spirit. Crystal Lake has been a major economic engine in Northeastern Illinois for the past decade. The City offers residents and businesses high-quality services at one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the area.

Stable Property Tax Levy

The Crystal Lake City Council recently voted to keep the total annual property tax levy flat for the 2020 Property Tax Levy. Paired with additional newly developed properties being added to the tax rolls for Crystal Lake, the overall property tax rate is projected to drop by about 4% from the previous year.

The approved tax levy, which funds the Fire Rescue Department and required pension obligations, will ensure that the tax levy attributable to the City remains one of the lowest tax rates in the area. The property tax also includes the Crystal Lake Library's property tax levy.

The City will continue to provide the community with high-quality police and fire protection, water and wastewater treatment services, brush pick-up and drop-off, street maintenance, and other City services, including the Three Oaks Recreation Area.

The City Council's actions reflect the priority the City places on its role as a responsible financial steward.

Great Service at a Low Price

When comparing surrounding communities that provide like services, Crystal Lake's portion of a property owner's tax bill is among the lowest. Since 1997, the City has not levied a property tax for the General Fund. As a result, only approximately 11% of the property tax bill is attributable to municipal services provided by the City of Crystal Lake (2019 Levy, most recent available).



Good Things are Happening in Crystal Lake

Value for the Community



HIGHLIGHTS

Low Crime Rate

According to the Illinois State Police Uniform Crime Reporting statistics, Crystal Lake has experienced an estimated **62.26% decrease** in total reported index crime offenses from 2005 to 2020.

Enhanced ISO Rating

ISO is the leading supplier of data and analytics for the property/casualty insurance industry.

ISO ratings are based on the Public Protection Classification (PPC) survey that conducts an analysis of the structural fire suppression delivery system provided in the City.

The City's current ISO PPC rating is 2 out of 10, with the lower rating being better.

The City's Class 2 rating placed the City within the **top 4.50%** of fire suppression services in the United States.

In 2020, the City's residents and businesses benefited from the services listed below provided by the City of Crystal Lake:

Community Development

- Resurfaced **10.8 miles** of roadway.
- Sidewalk repair to remove tripping hazards.
- Building and Engineering performed **12,790** inspections.

Public Works

- Supplied **1.38 billion** gallons of fresh water.
- Processed **1.76 billion** gallons of wastewater.
- Plowed **326 lane miles** of roadway during each snow event.
- Cleaned **17.8 miles** of sewer line.
- Planted **109** parkway trees.

Police

- Responded to **18,557** calls.

Fire Rescue

- Responded to **6,319** calls.
- Served **4,247** patients.
- Performed **378** plan reviews.
- Performed **148** life safety and re-inspections.

Three Oaks Recreation Area

- **147,572** vehicles entered the park in 2020.
- **9,317** guests visited the Swim Beach in 2020.
- **7,136** watercraft rented in 2020.



Good Things are Happening in Crystal Lake

Intergovernmental Cooperation



Intergovernmental cooperation takes many forms, including mutual aid agreements for police and fire services, intergovernmental service contracting, joint purchasing agreements, coordinated growth management planning, and regional provision of emergency services. One of the advantages of these types of arrangements is that they provide economies of scale and allow entities to do more with less.

The City has been a leader for years in intergovernmental cooperation. Some examples include:

Southeast Emergency Communications (SEECOM)

The City was a founding member of SEECOM, a regional public safety dispatch center.

Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance Pool

The City is a participant in the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency (IRMA), which allows municipal entities to band together for the purposes of reducing liability insurance costs.

Contracted Fire Rescue Services

Through a fee agreement, the City provides fire rescue services to the Village of Lakewood and the Crystal Lake Rural Fire Protection District.

Health Insurance Pool

The City is a participant in the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative (IPBC) which allows municipal groups to band together for the purposes of reducing health insurance costs.

McHenry County Municipal Partnering Initiative (MPI)

The City is a member of the McHenry County MPI which is a purchasing collaboration of local governments in McHenry County. This is an initiative to reduce program costs through basic principles: bulk purchasing, the sharing of best practices, and the sharing of workloads. Any community could choose to opt out of a proposed project, maintaining the ability for communities to choose to do things their way while simultaneously allowing interested parties to cooperate and save on costs.

Joint Purchasing Agreements

The City Council adopted a Procurement Ordinance which allows the City to take advantage of cooperative purchasing opportunities by becoming a member of various cooperative purchasing programs in addition to the State of Illinois Joint Purchase Program and the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative.

Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative (NIMEC)

The City is a member of NIMEC, a municipal Collaborative that pools the energy needs of members in order to secure more competitive pricing than can be provided individually to a single municipality, based on higher volumes. The City uses NIMEC to meet its electrical power needs for street lights and municipal facilities.



IPBC
Intergovernmental
Personnel Benefit
Cooperative

Good Things are Happening in Crystal Lake

Three Oaks Recreation Area



In 2020, Three Oaks Recreation Area continued to be a desirable recreational amenity. The park is highly regarded by those who visit, and is both a regional and national attraction. This is reflected in the continued high customer satisfaction ratings. Operational adjustments were needed to accommodate Covid-19 capacity restrictions in 2020. Although this led to reduced attendance at the beach, there were more canoes and kayaks rented in 2020 than any year since the park opened.

Guest Satisfaction Remains a Priority

- Per customer survey information, guests continued to be very satisfied with customer service provided by staff at the beach and marina.
- The number of repeat guests continues to remain high. Guests who visited the swim beach at least once a month increased in 2020. 43% of guests surveyed rented a watercraft at least once per month.
- 99% of surveyed guests are either likely or very likely to return to the park.

Attendance

- **9,317** guests visited the Swim Beach in 2020.
- Over **140,000** vehicles entered the park in 2020.
- Nearly **70** percent of park guests are from areas outside of Crystal Lake.

Park Vendors

- The Quarry Cable Park, Board House, and Cottage on the Beach continued successful operations at the park in 2020. The Board House experienced their most successful year since beginning operations at the park.

Media Attention

- Three Oaks Recreation Area ranked **No. 1** on *Trip Advisor's* Top 20 Things to do in Crystal Lake.

Revenues and Expenses

- Part-time staff expenses, which accounted for 44% of all park expenses, were completely paid for by park use revenues.



City Investment in Business Community



HIGHLIGHTS

Investment in Business

\$528,574 in City façade grants to businesses from 2010 to present.

\$4,600,000 in City sales tax sharing agreements from 2010 to present.

\$4,288,444 in City Hotel/Motel Tax Funding awarded to community organizations from 2002 to present.

2020 Business Development

- **403,199** SF of commercial occupancies
- **328,241** SF of new business occupancies
- **74,958** SF expanded/relocated businesses
- **367** new jobs created
- **61** new small businesses (<20 employees)

Crystal Lake is a well-established community with an abundance of opportunities for new development as well as redevelopment. There are **3,734** local businesses in Crystal Lake, providing a workforce of **27,105** employees.

New Manufacturer and Industrial Growth

Aptar Group, headquartered here in Crystal Lake at 265 Exchange Drive, is a global leader in consumer product dispensing and active packaging solutions. Aptar recently expanded operations and designed a product that enables the N95 masks needed by healthcare personnel to be cleaned and reused again.

INAV LLC is a new company to Crystal Lake and is a distributor of aircraft engine parts. INAV LLC recently added 24 new employees and occupied a 68,000 square-foot industrial space at 300 Exchange Drive.

AJ Antunes & Co., located at 6215 Factory Road, recently expanded and opened a 15,000 square-foot Innovation Center in Crystal Lake to help develop mechanization technology to assist restaurant operators with specialized automation of labor-intensive processes. The new Crystal Lake facility added 20 new employees to the community.

Autotrol, located at 365 Prairie Street, is an industry leader in custom AC and DC gear motors that recently expanded their facility and adjusted their operations to bottle hand sanitizer products to meet consumer demand.

Business Assistance

In order to aid businesses impacted by the pandemic, the City Council approved \$750,000 in grants to be made available to help businesses endure through mitigation phases. To date, 83 businesses have received this assistance.



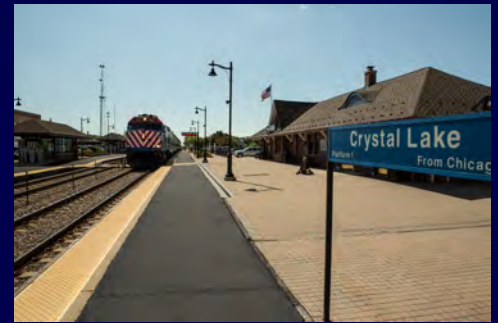
83

Businesses Received Financial Assistance



\$ 750,000

Financial Assistance Programs Available to Crystal Lake Business



Good Things are Happening in Crystal Lake

New & Expanded Businesses



Jude's - 19 N. Williams Street

A new restaurant in downtown Crystal Lake featuring small plates from the US, Europe and Asia alongside infused flavored gin cocktails, featuring their signature Jude's Gin, which will be the first in the Midwest of its kind.



Vine and Plate - 414 W. Virginia Street

Believes that good wine and good food bring people together, creating the moments that life is all about. Offering unique drinks, wines from around the world and small plates, salads and flatbreads.



Pho Royal - 230 W. Virginia Street, Unit 830

New Vietnamese restaurant in the Country Corners Shopping Center offering a wide variety of traditional dishes.



Moretti's Pizza Pub - 72 N. Williams Street

New Moretti's concept with a larger bar beverage selection and streamlined menu focused on take-out and catering of fresh made pub-food along with their famous thin and deep dish pizzas.

THE *facial* BAR



The Facial Bar Boutique - 30 N. Williams Street

Offers top-of-the-line professional skincare and beauty products, as well as a variety of other health and wellness products including gift and home products.



Nana's New York Deli - 6220 Northwest Highway

Brings a taste of New York to the Crystal Lake community. Serving up New York style 1/2 lb corned beef, hot pastrami and turkey sandwiches alongside homemade matzo ball soup.

A - Z Interiors - 33 N. Williams Street

One-stop shop for everything you might need for your home offering anything from accessories to professional design and everything in between.



J C Licht - 73 N. Williams Street

The new paint and window treatment store, now located in downtown Crystal Lake. The staff here is ready to assist customers in selecting new wallpapers, paints, stains, and window treatments.

Lizzy Lou Boutique - 17 E. Crystal Lake Avenue

The newest boutique retail store in downtown offering stylish and unique women's and baby accessories and clothing.



Tropical Smoothie Café - 5006 Northwest Highway

Helping customers focus on healthy eating with a wide array of smoothies and nutritious sandwiches/wraps.



Senior Residences of Crystal Lake - 355 Station Drive

Check out this affordable senior-based housing development with 60 units that also offers a theater, card room, game room, community area, library and café.

Good Things are Happening in Crystal Lake

Future/Planned Developments



McAlister's Deli will be opening in 2021 at 5500 Northwest Highway. McAlister's Deli is a counter-service and take-out deli known for their delicious sandwiches, soups, salads, stuffed baked potatoes and sweet tea.



Raising Cane's will be opening at 5417 Northwest Highway, providing a new fast-casual chicken experience. The company has ONE LOVE — quality chicken finger meals and a cult following. Construction will start in spring of 2021.



Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, located at 5500 Northwest Highway, is a fast-casual restaurant new to McHenry County that specializes in various sandwiches, burgers and hot dogs that are cooked to order, as well as frozen custard.



Oh Boil Crawfish Oyster Bar, located at 5800 Northwest Highway, will offer a new sit-down seafood restaurant to the Crystal Lake community! Get ready for a local seafood boil and raw oysters specialty restaurant.



New home construction is underway at the *Woodlore Estates Subdivision*. Over 200 permits have been issued and residents have moved in. Once completed, the subdivision will consist of 68 townhome units, 105 senior single-family homes, and 319 single-family homes. The senior single-family homes are ranch-style homes available to residents 55 years of age and older.



New luxury apartments are under construction in Crystal Lake! *The Springs at Three Oaks* is being built at 1120 Central Park Drive and will offer a townhome-like feel with high-end amenities including an outdoor pool and clubhouse, two dog parks, a community fire pit and gathering area.

Featured Capital Improvement Projects



Crystal Lake Avenue and Main Street Intersection Improvements

- Intersection widening and pavement resurfacing
- Water main infrastructure upgrade
- Permanent traffic signal installation
- Improved bicycle path
- Area parkway beautification



North Shore Drainage Improvements

- Mitigation of high water levels occurring during storm events
- Storm sewer installation
- Installation of three stormwater management basins with over one million gallons of storage
- Native plantings in basins to filter stormwater



North Main Street: Woodstock Street to Route 176

- New traffic signal and intersection improvements to improve traffic flow at Route 176 and North Main Street
- Resurfacing along North Main Street from Woodstock Street to Route 176
- Water main infrastructure upgrade
- City awarded \$1.5 million in federal funds
- Construction anticipated 2022

City Officials



ACTING MAYOR

Haig Haleblan

COUNCILMEMBERS

Ellen Brady
Cathy A. Ferguson
Brett Hopkins

Cameron Hubbard
Mandy Montford
Ian Philpot

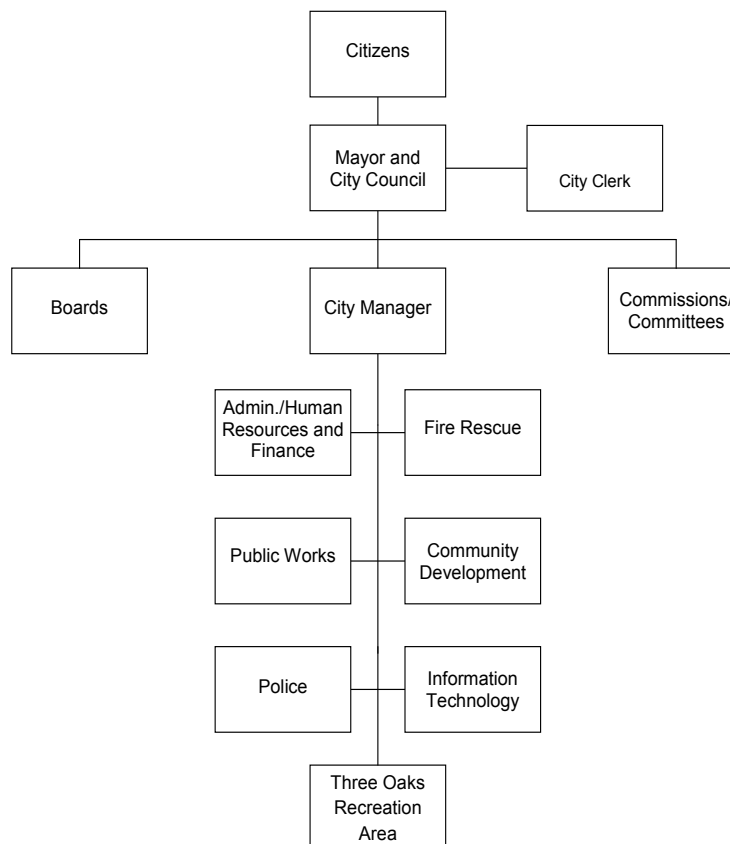
CITY CLERK

Nick Kachiroubas

ADMINISTRATION

Gary J. Mayerhofer
Eric T. Helm
Jodie Hartman
Michelle Rentzsch
Julie Meyer
Gregory A. Fettes
Michael Magnuson
James Black
Paul DeRaedt

City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Director of Finance/Treasurer
Director of Community Development
Director of Human Resources
Director of Information Technology
Director of Public Works and Engineering
Chief of Police
Chief of Fire Rescue



Outreach



The City of Crystal Lake is committed to delivering information to the public that is clear and timely and promotes two-way communication between City officials and the Crystal Lake community.

The City publishes a monthly newsletter to provide residents with information about municipal programs, services, community events and actions of the City Council. In a continuing effort to keep residents informed about City news and events, residents can register to receive timely news about municipal services, City Council meetings, agendas, news releases, and more via e-mail.

Comcast and AT&T U-Verse provide the City with a 24-hour community access channel. Comcast and AT&T subscribers can tune in to view information about community news and events.

The City's website at www.crystallake.org offers several interactive tools designed to help foster better communication and efficiency, including E-News, online bill pay and licensing, online permit and development applications through ezApp, the City's Transparency Portal, and the Form Center for requests or concerns.

Public documents are uploaded to the City's website to help provide greater access to information for residents, businesses and visitors. A redesigned website debuted in 2019. The City has created a "Transparency Portal" page, a one-stop location that will direct residents to details about City spending and operations, including current and past year budgets and audits, salary information for all City employees, and City Council and Committee Meeting agendas and minutes.

Social Media



Electronic Bidding

The City uses "BidSync", an electronic bidding notification and procurement system. BidSync enables suppliers and vendors to identify, respond to, and potentially win bid opportunities with the City of Crystal Lake.

The City issues competitive solicitations for goods and services using the BidSync Electronic Bidding System. Vendors will be able to view, and when applicable, submit bids and proposal requirements electronically using the system. There is NO CHARGE TO VENDORS to use the BidSync Electronic Bidding System but vendors need to register. Vendors can also register through the City of Crystal Lake's website.

Interactive Maps

In response to the surging demand for online access to a wealth of public information, the City has taken great strides in providing this information in easy to access maps via the City's GeoCortex portal. For residents seeking information about a particular property, GeoCortex is an easy way to view an array of information on a specific property or the City overall.

RES



INSERT PICTURE

Good Things are Happening in Crystal Lake



McHenry County College

Annual Report 2020



MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

2020

YEAR IN REVIEW



YOUR **NEXT** STARTS NOW

We've always known that attending McHenry County College could be a transformational experience—but that was perhaps never more so than in 2020. Early in the year, as we all faced an unprecedented crisis, we knew our students were looking to us to provide leadership and guidance so they could maintain focus on their goals. So we got to work—and reimaged the educational experience.

We created five different modes of learning to match our students' personal learning preferences, expanded our financial assistance resources, and added multiple new tools to make scheduling classes easy. We embedded student navigators into classes to connect students to campus resources, reevaluated longstanding processes to eliminate red tape, and worked throughout the community to form greater partnerships and develop more dual credit opportunities with our high schools.

And in the end, our efforts paid off. We were one of only three community colleges in the state to see an enrollment increase in Fall 2020. Our headcount grew to include 7,813 students, up 4.5% from Fall 2019, and our credit hours rose 2.1% during the same period.

While none of us know exactly what's next, one thing is certain: MCC will continue to adapt, create more opportunities for our community to be inspired and prepared, and never lose focus on our commitment to helping students achieve success.

Learn more about program offerings, events,
and college goals at www.mchenry.edu.



MCC 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- Received \$15.8 million in state funding for the new, 41,000 sq. ft. Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI) building, which will create a pipeline of skilled manufacturing workers for the county. The CATI building will offer training in programs including: HVAC; Welding; Logistics; CNC Machining; Engineering Technology; Advanced Manufacturing; Industrial Maintenance; Mechatronics; Metrology; and Artificial Intelligence. With additional space accommodating an Entrepreneurial Center, Fabrication Lab, and Maker Space, the CATI will offer the promise of being an epicenter for community entrepreneurial engagement, emerging workforce inspiration, and economically meaningful teaching and training.
- Continued work on tailored curriculum pathways, student engagement efforts, and technology and campus updates under the \$2.25 million grant received from the U.S. Department of Education (Title III Strengthening Institutions Program).
- Awarded more than 400 scholarships providing more than \$390,000 in assistance to MCC students. The Friends of MCC Foundation also supported students experiencing unexpected financial emergencies through the Student Success Fund, an initiative started in 2017 that to date has provided more than \$65,000 to help students stay in school. The Foundation also increased the award amount for the Student Success Fund from \$500 to \$1,000 to help more students in 2020, and provided technology tools to support virtual learning needs.
- Transitioned vital community events to a virtual format, including many personal enrichment and workforce training programs, *Meet MCC* events for prospective students, the annual job fair, various concerts, the annual President's Dinner, and the *Experts and Insights* and *Forefront speaker series*.
- Redesigned and updated the college website, www.mchenry.edu, making it easier to navigate and find crucial information.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented additional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives including the formation of a task force charged with creating tangible, ongoing strategies to ensure all voices are represented at the College.
- Dispersed more than \$1.1 million in CARES Act funds to students facing significant hardship as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continued installation of new interior campus wayfinding signage and remodeled various Student Service areas including Admissions, Registration, and Access and Disability Services. The MCC Store was also renovated to provide a better shopping experience.
- Received accreditation for our Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program through the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE).
- Launched the *Forefront* speaker series and other Center for Agrarian Learning workshops to connect growers to the people and ideas they need to succeed.
- Welcomed the first group of students to the new Entrepreneurial Agriculture degree program, designed to prepare those with an interest in agriculture for a successful career in the regional food economy.
- Increased mental health resources including stress relief workshops, open Q&As throughout the semester, virtual tutoring through the Sage Learning Center, and counseling available through the Office of Crisis Prevention and Intervention.
- Maintained a flat tax levy, saving taxpayers money and contributing favorably to the economic impact on the college district while maintaining quality of programming and services.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



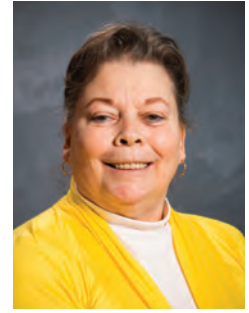
Mike Smith
Chair



Molly Walsh
Vice-chair



Tom Allen
Secretary



Diane Evertsen



Suzanne Hoban



Mary Beth Siddons



Elizabeth Speros

***2020 Student Trustee: Gabby German**

EXECUTIVE CABINET



Dr. Clint Gabbard
President



Dr. Chris Gray
*Vice President of Academic
Affairs and Workforce
Development*



Christina Haggerty
*Vice President of Marketing,
Communications
and Development*



Dr. Talia Koronkiewicz
*Vice President
of Student Affairs*



Dr. Allen Butler
Chief Information Officer



Robert Tenuta
Chief Financial Officer



Michelle Skinder
*Vice President
of Human Resources*



High School District 155

Annual Report 2020





INSPIRE. EMPOWER. NURTURE.

Enter with promise. Leave with purpose.

Community High School District 155

815-455-8500

distmail@d155.org

www.d155.org

www.twitter.com/CHSD155

Organizational Focus

Community High School District 155 is proud of our students who enter with promise and leave with purpose. The district serves over 5,600 students at four comprehensive high schools and one alternative education campus. The schools serve Crystal Lake, Cary, Fox River Grove, Lake in the Hills, Lakewood, Prairie Grove, and other surrounding areas. District 155 employs 712 people including teachers, administrators, and support staff.

Each institution has full State of Illinois recognition and accreditation, and the district has been awarded the highest financial rating from the Illinois State Board of Education for each of the past 17 years.

District 155's mission statement: *Inspire. Empower. Nurture.* Enter with promise. Leave with purpose.

Annual Review

Nationally & State Ranked School District



All 4 D155 schools ranked in the top 10% nationally and earned spots in the top 100 best high schools in Illinois.



D155 ranked Best District in McHenry County.



3 Exemplary Schools
1 Commendable

Illinois School Report Card



3 Schools Rank in Top 16% of STEM Schools by Newsweek

District 155 produces well-rounded students who are prepared to thrive during their post-high school educational endeavors and careers. Eighty-seven percent of the Class of 2020 continued their education at two or four-year colleges or technical schools.

Beyond the classroom, District 155 provides a broad array of extracurricular opportunities for students. These help develop the community's teens into well-rounded individuals by emphasizing teamwork, creative thinking, worldliness, resiliency, and hard work. The schools' athletic teams continue to excel on the fields of play with several athletes earning IHSA All-State honors in the past year. On the stage, many of the district's singers and musicians have earned

places in the all-state and all-state honors orchestras, bands, and choirs by the Illinois Music Educators Association. Likewise, the schools' professional-quality drama and musical productions continue to be the best entertainment value in McHenry County.

2020-21 School Year: Overcoming Challenges & Embracing Change

Community High School District 155 like all school districts has had to overcome challenges and embrace change as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that in-person learning provides significant advantages and opportunities for our students, ones that cannot always be duplicated remotely. As we continue to follow local, state, and national health guidelines, our goal is a gradual return to what our staff and students do best: learning in the classroom.

We are looking with hope towards the future and a plan for all students to return to our buildings. Our focus is to provide the safest and most beneficial learning system for students. District 155 staff, students and parents have proven to resilient and flexible as the district has transitioned between several learning models.

Safety Protocols

District 155 is following guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health, Illinois State Board of Education, McHenry County Department of Health and the Center for Disease and Control to ensure a safe return for our staff and students.

- Masks must be worn at all times in school buildings
- Students and staff are required to self-screen for symptoms prior to boarding the bus and entering the building
- Thermal scanners are placed at the entrances of all buildings to monitor student and staff temperatures upon entry
- Social distancing is practiced by limiting the number of students and staff in the building
- Hand sanitizing dispensers are located in each classroom. Additionally, over 20 hand sanitizing stations have been mounted strategically throughout each school.
- In collaboration with the McHenry County Department of Health, our school nurses have played a vital role in conducting contact tracing for our staff and families. D155 has added two additional nurses since the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, a substitute nurse and contracted nurse to assist our nurses.

Cleaning Practices

District 155 has enhanced its cleaning practices. One additional custodian has been added to the staff for each building during the day to satisfy cleaning needs. Deep cleaning and disinfecting take place every day. Second shift custodians perform increased cleaning and sanitizing daily when students and staff have left the building. During the school day, custodians clean & sanitize high contact surfaces and areas of high traffic. Each classroom also is equipped with a sanitizing kit. Plexiglass barriers have been installed at point of service locations between staff and students.

Based on the recommendation from the district's engineers, ventilation systems in all of our buildings have been transitioned to "occupied" mode. This means our ventilation units are running 24 hours a day to bring outside air into each building.

Gradual Return to In-Person

District 155 focused on a gradual return approach for in-person learning. During the first semester, 112 students in our specialized programs (Functional Communication Skills, Functional Living Skills, Life Skills, STRIVE and Haber Oaks) attended five days per week in-person. Throughout the semester, we managed to continue these programs in-person by implementing consistent CDC safety procedures, open communication, closing classrooms if necessary, and temporarily pausing in-person instruction to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This approach proved to be too successful for our specialized programs.

District 155 transitioned to a Hybrid Learning approach for two weeks in October. Families had an option to select Hybrid In-Person or Full-Time Remote. Students who selected the Hybrid Learning Model were split into two groups split by the alphabet and alternated days to attend school in-person. The increased community spread of COVID-19 paused in-person instruction, and the district transitioned to full Remote Learning for all students with the exception of those students in our specialized programs, who continued to attend in-person five days a week.

Beginning January 19, the district transitioned to its Hybrid Learning Model again. About 75 percent of students have selected Hybrid In-Person Learning and 25 percent of students have selected full-time Remote Learning.

Partnerships

District 155 continues to collaborate with the McHenry County Department of Health. Superintendent Steve Olson continues to participate in weekly calls with health department officials to receive updated health data. In addition, county superintendents partnered with the health department to develop interim guidance using health metrics to evaluate transitioning between learning models. County superintendents are now working closely with the health department to assist with vaccination efforts of Group 1B which includes educators.

COVID-19 Costs

As of January 2021, the district has spent approximately \$487,000 on COVID related expenses. This includes:

- \$117,700 on technology supplies and equipment such as webcams, monitors, and other tech devices to prepare for remote/hybrid learning
- \$96,300 on plexiglass to protect staff
- \$66,300 on extra custodial supplies for COVID-19 cleaning
- \$65,200 to hire four additional technicians to aid with remote/hybrid learning
- \$42,000 on health service supplies, including masks, gloves, and other PPE and related supplies
- \$38,800 for “dropout detection” software to track engagement for students
- \$35,000 on additional nursing help to aid with processes like contract tracing
- \$10,400 on internet connectivity for hot spots for families as a result of remote/hybrid learning
- \$7,500 on additional custodians to have around during the daytime while students are present while in the Hybrid model of learning

Alternatively, there have been reduced costs for the district due to COVID. The district has not filled 19 student supervisory positions because the district is currently offering open campus and has fewer students in our buildings. This has helped offset the costs for additional technicians, nurses and custodians. The district has also saved on student transportation.

D155 has received approximately \$320,000 in federal CARES Act funding to offset COVID related costs. District 155 will receive approximately \$1.3 million with a second round of stimulus money. The potential uses of the grant funds have been expanded to include “addressing learning loss among students” and school facility repairs “that help reduce risk of virus transmission and exposure to other environmental health hazards.” D155 recognizes there will be future expenses related to COVID-19, and the district, in the short term, will have the money to pay for those expenses.

By the Numbers

- District 155 has distributed over 72,836 meals to our families since the pandemic began in March 2020.
- Engineering students at Prairie Ridge produced 260 face shields with 3-D printers that were donated to hospitals throughout the community.
- The district has distributed 120 hot spots to ensure students engage in remote learning.
- District 155 honored 46 graduates stationed in hospitals, treating COVID-19 patients and working as first responders all over the country.
- Students have sent over 250 “Thank You” messages to frontline workers.

Fiscal Responsibility

Due to prudent decision-making, the district remains in good financial standing. It has earned the highest level of recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education for each of the past 17 years. The district has produced balanced budgets with operating revenues exceeding operating expenditures for six consecutive years, including the most recent 2020-21 Fiscal Year.

For a sixth year in a row, D155 received financial recognition from the Government Finance Officers Association and Association of School Business Officials International for its June 30, 2020, Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

The board and district administration continue to make strategic decisions to save district money while remaining fiscally responsible. With declining student enrollment over the last six years, the district has reduced the number of administrators by six and the number of full-time certified teachers by 27.5. The district has also reduced health care costs and costs for purchased services and supplies.

Tax Levy

District 155's Board of Education estimated and approved a tentative 1.37 percent tax levy increase while agreeing to rebate \$1 million back to taxpayers in the form of a debt service abatement. The 1.37 percent tax increase is inflationary and will provide District 155 with the necessary revenue to continue its three-year plan to complete the air conditioning projects at Cary-Grove and Crystal Lake Central.

District 155 has spent \$87.5 million to improve its schools over the last seven years. The district has used its operating fund surpluses as well as its fund balances to complete necessary repairs and renovations.

Engagement

The district encourages parent and community involvement. To learn more about the schools and find a schedule of upcoming events, please visit the district and school websites:

District 155 Center for Education One South Virginia Road Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815) 455-8500 distmail@d155.org www.d155.org www.twitter.com/CHSD155	Cary-Grove High School 2208 Three Oaks Road Cary, IL 60013 (847) 639-3825 www.d155.org/CG www.twitter.com/CaryGroveHS	Crystal Lake Central High School 45 West Franklin Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815) 459-2505 www.d155.org/CLC twitter.com/CLCentralHS
Crystal Lake South High School 1200 South McHenry Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815) 455-3860 www.d155.org/CLS twitter.com/CLSouthHS	Prairie Ridge High School 6000 Dvorak Drive Crystal Lake, IL 60012 (815) 479-0404 www.d155.org/PR twitter.com/PrairieRidgeHS	Haber Oaks Campus 1200 South McHenry Avenue Crystal Lake, IL 60014 (815) 893-5300 www.d155.org/HOC

Beyond public engagement, District 155 continues to engage the elementary school districts and private schools which send students to District 155 high schools, including Districts 47, 3, 26, and 46, Immanuel Lutheran School, St. Peter and Paul Catholic School, St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic School, and Trinity Oaks Christian Academy.

Administrative Team

The administrative team is comprised of 14 leaders who establish educational practices aligned with the vision of the board of education and community. The group oversees a highly engaged and successful organization that includes teachers, counselors, social workers, school nurses, psychologists, support staff, and school administrators. Administrators can be reached through the main number at their school or office or distmail@d155.org.

Steve Olson, Superintendent
Erica Bruso, Director of Fiscal Services
Kimberly Dahlem, Director of Student Services
Jeremy Davis, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations
George DiVenere, Director of Technology
Dr. Eric Ernd, Principal, Crystal Lake Central High School
Dr. Steve Koch, Principal, Prairie Ridge High School
Neil Lesinski, Principal, Cary-Grove High School
Josh Nobile, Principal, Crystal Lake South High School
Shannon Podzimek, Director of Communications
Jay Sargeant, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Scott Shepard, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services







Troy Stinger, Director of Operations
Matt Timmerman, Director of Curriculum & Assessment

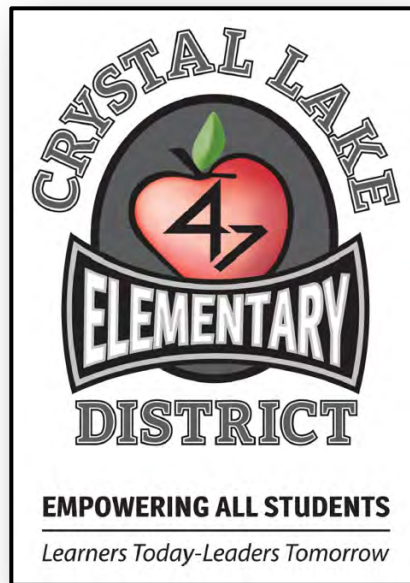
Board of Education Members

District 155's Board of Education includes seven elected members who are dedicated to the district's mission and to serving students and community.

The board of education meets monthly in public meetings to discuss important district business and happenings. A calendar of regular meetings is available on the District 155 website at www.d155.org. Additionally, several board committees meet in public session throughout the year. Agendas and public notices of these meetings are posted in advance.

The board can be contacted through email at board@d155.org or 815-455-8500.

		
Jason Blake, President	Adam Guss, Vice President	Amy Blazier
		
Ron Ludwig	Nicole Pavoris	Dave Secrest
		
Tom Vaclavek		



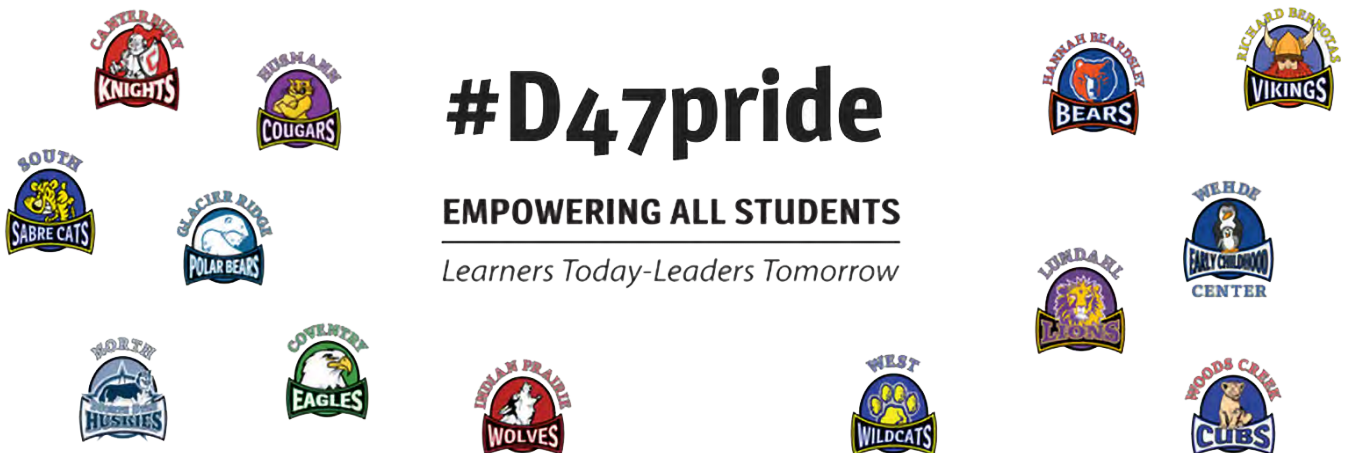
Elementary School District 47

Annual Report 2020

#D47pride

EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS

Learners Today-Leaders Tomorrow



Crystal Lake Elementary District 47

District 47 employs approximately 1,300 highly qualified licensed and non-licensed educators, staff members and administrators. With one of the largest student enrollments in McHenry County of approximately 7,100 students, District 47 is comprised of nine elementary schools, three middle schools, an early childhood center, a central office (CORE Center) and a warehouse facility (Fetzner Center). The District spans an area of 44 square miles, which includes the entire city of Crystal Lake, Village of Lakewood, as well as small sections of Lake in the Hills, Cary, Woodstock, Huntley, Bull Valley, and McHenry. About 50 percent of the geographic area the District serves includes the unincorporated county area, which extends beyond the city of Crystal Lake.



To accommodate the transportation of its students in an efficient manner, District 47 jointly operates the Transportation Joint Agreement (TJA) with Community High School District 155. Bus service is provided for both regular and special education programs.

District 47 Program Overview

The District 47 curriculum is based on best practices that exist in the educational community. The District continues to have more students meet or exceed standards than the state average on standardized tests and offers quality special education, gifted, bilingual, dual language, fine arts, and enrichment programming to support the learning needs of all students. The District offers both half- and full-day kindergarten options for families with more than 99 percent of all families selecting the full-day option. The early childhood program serves approximately 150 students providing academic, speech and language, and physical and/or occupational therapy services along with tuition-based general education preschool opportunities. In addition, before- and after-school care is available for families at most elementary schools through the Crystal Lake Park District. The District has worked to provide these and other quality programs while at the same time fulfilling its commitment to fiscal responsibility.

The passion and commitment that the Board of Education, administration, teachers and support staff have towards providing educational excellence for all students continues to be a driving force behind providing the community with knowledgeable, wise, productive citizens. The District is committed to preparing students for their next steps -- high school, college and career -- in an ever-changing world.

District 47 Board of Education

The Board is the legal governing body of the District and consists of seven elected members serving a typical term of four years without compensation. Board meetings are typically held the third Monday of the month at the CORE Center, 300 Commerce Dr. in Crystal Lake. Meetings begin with a closed session at 6 p.m. and an open, public session at 7 p.m. *Note: This year, due to the pandemic, meetings have been held virtually via Zoom.*



Rob Fetzner - President
rfetzner@d47.org



John Pellikan
jpellikan@d47.org



Dr. Betsy Les - Vice President
bales@d47.org



Jonathan Powell
jpowell@d47.org



Ryan Farrell
rpfarrell@d47.org



Curt Wadlington
cwadlington@d47.org



Emily Smith
esmith@d47.org

District 47 Executive Council

The District 47 executive council consists of six employees who oversee various departments and manage the critical daily functions of the District.

Dr. Kathy J. Hinz

Superintendent



Dr. Greg Buchanan

Assoc. Supt. of Human Resources



Christina Moran

Asst. Supt. of Student Learning



Dave Jenkins

Asst. Supt. of Technology Services



Cathy Nelson

Asst. Supt. of Business



Denise Barr

Dir. of Communications / Public Engagement



District 47 Highlights & Accomplishments

2020-21: A School Year to Remember



The 2020-21 school year has been interesting to say the least! District 47 kicked off the year in August with remote teaching and learning, then switched to a hybrid model (remote learning *and* modified in-person instruction) for the month of October. Due to the increasing community spread of COVID-19, District 47 teachers and students reverted back to remote learning in November and remained in remote learning until winter break.

Starting January 11th, District 47 will reinstate its hybrid learning model with a phased-in approach bringing our youngest learners (preK-2 students) and students in special education back to our schools first. Students in grades 3-5 will return on January 25th and students in grades

6-8 will return on February 8th. Remote learning will continue to be provided for families who prefer this learning option.

The changes this year have required herculean efforts by administrators, teachers and staff, as well as an incredible amount of flexibility, patience, and support from our families.

- Our operations and maintenance team has worked diligently to implement rigorous health and safety protocols, disinfecting and sanitizing classrooms on a regular basis, installing hand sanitizing stations in our schools, and rearranging and removing furniture to create social distancing in our classrooms.
- Our schools have found creative ways to connect and engage with students and families virtually and to get students the educational materials they need at home during remote learning.
- Our human resources department and health services team work with the local health department to provide contact tracing assistance when there is a reported case of COVID-19 in our school community.
- Our superintendent continues to participate in weekly calls with the McHenry County Health Department to stay in-the-know. Dr. Hinz developed and maintains District 47's [COVID-19 dashboard](#) -- a one-stop-shop for COVID-19 data which includes confirmed cases and quarantines in District 47 as well as health metrics for the zip codes we serve and for McHenry County as a whole.

While this critical work is happening behind-the-scenes, our teachers and staff continue to engage with students daily at home through virtual platforms like Zoom and Google Meets and provide drop-in services at our schools for students in special education. The pandemic has strengthened our resolve to continue to provide a quality education for all students, whether in school or at home. While this is not the year we had hoped for, our administrators and staff have gained new skills and learned to “think outside the box” to meet the needs of our students and families.



District 47 Establishes Equity Committee

District 47 is committed to providing a safe, equitable, and inclusive educational environment for all staff and students. This year, the District has formed an equity committee, comprised of educators and administrators, to explore ways to guide, support and enhance practices related to cultural diversity and racial equity within our schools and district community. The District is currently in the research phase of this endeavor and will keep the District 47 community and Board of Education informed of its progress.

Renovation of Coventry Elementary School



A significant and exciting undertaking last year for the District was the \$18.4 million renovation of Coventry Elementary School. To comply with a required Life/Safety inspection, the main level interior walls and ceilings of the original part of Coventry were removed and rebuilt during the 2019-20 school year. We are excited to welcome back our Coventry Eagles to experience 21st century learning and enjoy the newly renovated space!

2020-2021 Financial Snapshot

Financial Recognitions

For fiscal year 2020 and multiple years prior, District 47 has received the status of Financial Recognition (the highest designation level) by the state of Illinois. This recognition is based on the annual financial report that is completed each year. A district in the financial recognition category requires little or no review by the Illinois State Board of Education.

In addition, District 47 received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting recognition from the Association of School Business Officials International for the 35th consecutive year. This award represents a significant achievement and reflects the District's commitment to the highest standard of school system financial reporting and transparency.

2020-2021 Budget

On September 21, 2020, the District 47 Board of Education passed the 2020-21 budget. Within this budget, the Board approved operational expenditures (including additional expenditures related to COVID-19; see below), as well as the continuation of life/safety projects and strategic planning initiatives. All debt (2010 Build America bonds, 2018 and 2019 debt certificates) will be paid from the District's operating funds, eliminating the need for a specific property tax for the debt service fund.

While the majority of the District 47 budget (approximately 80 percent) comes from local revenue sources, the District continuously looks for grant opportunities to fund initiatives as well as ways to streamline federal money that is provided to the District.

The Cost of COVID-19

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic thrust a new "norm" at the education sector and the world as a whole. To ensure the safety of students and staff, schools were forced to quickly transition teaching and learning from the classroom to a remote platform, one that District 47 was only partially prepared for as the District's K-2 students were in need of devices and some families lacked internet access.

In the spring during remote learning, even though the district's school buses were not transporting students to/from school, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker made agreements with several state collective bargaining groups that required local districts to continue paying salary and benefits through the remainder of the 2019/20 school year. In addition, the USDA extended meal benefits to the school community to provide breakfast/lunch at no cost. (This benefit has now been extended to the end of the 2020/21 school year.)

Over the past few months, the District has spent more than \$750,000 to assist in the implementation of remote instruction. This includes technology equipment, software licenses, and other supplies needed by students and staff to continue instruction. Additionally, the District has spent thousands of dollars for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and products to clean and sanitize facilities for the safety of students and staff.

On a national level, it has been estimated that a school district will spend approximately \$500 per student to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. For District 47, this would amount to

approximately \$3.5 million. The federal government has provided the CARES grant to help school districts fund the purchase of technology for remote instruction. In addition, District 47 is pursuing funds from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to help offset additional COVID-19 expenditures.

2020 Tax Levy

After a public hearing at the District 47 Board of Education meeting on December 14, 2020, the Board voted 7-0 to adopt the 2020 tax levy. The requested aggregate amount of total property taxes to be levied for 2020 is \$76.3 million, a reduction of approximately \$268,000 from the tentative levy amount requested in November.

Despite the fact that students have spent a majority of the 2020-21 school year in remote learning due to COVID-19, assistant superintendent of business Cathy Nelson noted that school buildings are still operating and educators and staff are still working.

"We've wanted to provide teachers the opportunity to come into their classrooms to teach remotely if they so choose, and our bus drivers and support staff have continued to serve our students but in different ways this year," Nelson said. Bus drivers have helped with food distribution and support staff continue to work with students virtually and/or assist with logistics, such as organizing and preparing educational material/supply pick-ups for families.

Due to uncertainty of state funding and the impact of COVID-19 on the local economy, District 47 continues to review staffing needs and expenditures annually to safeguard the district's finances. However, the district is bound by contractual obligations among various work groups and has incurred additional expenses related to COVID-19 this year, spending in excess of \$300,000 on face masks, plexiglass barriers, safety signage and cleaning and disinfecting supplies.

"We have prioritized the health and safety of our students and staff this year in light of the pandemic," said Nelson. "We are committed to continuing to be vigilant, resourceful and fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars, now more than ever."

Property tax revenues help school districts fund mandatory Health and Life Safety projects (such as the recent renovation at Coventry Elementary School) as well as capital improvements, such as a furniture replacement plan for all District 47 schools. Other ongoing, needed improvements include repairing and replacing structural elements, such as roofs, doors and windows; and upgrading electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.

What challenges does District 47 face?

The State of Illinois has continued with Evidence-Based Funding for school districts. The change in funding has been considered by many to be a historic victory towards equitable school funding in Illinois. Under the new plan, schools receive funds through an evidence-based model that utilizes 27 data sets and best practices in education to determine the actual cost for school districts to provide an adequate education for students. Funding levels are based on each school district's "adequacy target," which is a calculation based on a school district's

needs and a community's capacity to fund its schools based on assessed property values. Funding is then prioritized to schools that are furthest from their adequacy target. For the 2020-21 school year, District 47 has been categorized as Tier 2 and at 75 percent adequacy. Due to COVID, the district will receive the same amount of funding as the prior year.

While the state has continued to disperse Evidence-Based Funding on a regular schedule, other state fund payments may lag. Changes in mandated reporting for many programs and changes in legislation have also added an additional burden on the District.

Other challenges include the additional processes that need to be followed due to COVID, as well as the general maintenance, upgrades, and repairs that are needed in all 14 facilities.

Connect with Us

Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 welcomes questions and feedback from the community. If you would like to receive future district and school updates via an electronic newsletter ("The Communicator," published three times per year), please email Denise Barr, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, at dcbarr@d47.org. We invite the community to learn more about District 47 by visiting www.d47.org and/or following District 47 and its schools on social media.

District 47 Office

CORE Center

300 Commerce Dr.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.788.5000
Dr. Kathy Hinz, Supt.
www.d47.org
Twitter: CrystalLakesd47
Facebook: D47schools
Instagram: d47schools

District 47 Schools

Canterbury Elementary

875 Canterbury Dr.
Stacy Graff, Principal
815.788.5650
www.d47.org/can
Twitter: CanterburyD47
Facebook: CanterburyD47

Coventry Elementary

820 Darlington Lane
Matt Grubbs, Principal
815.788.5500
www.d47.org/cov
Twitter: CoventryD47
Facebook: CoventryD47

Glacier Ridge Elementary

1120 Village Rd.
John Jacobsen, Principal
815.444.4850
www.d47.org/grs
Twitter: GlacierRidgeD47
Facebook: GlacierRidgeD47
Instagram: grs_polar_bears

Husmann Elementary

131 W. Paddock St.
Guy Sromek, Principal
815.356.3400
www.d47.org/hus
Twitter: HusmannD47
Facebook: HusmannD47

Indian Prairie Elementary

651 Village Rd.
Jodie Moss, Principal
815.788.5700
www.d47.org/ips
Twitter: IndianPrairie47
Facebook: IndianPrairie47

North Elementary

500 Woodstock St.
Michelle Barrett, Principal
815.356.3450
www.d47.org/nor
Twitter: StarHuskies
Facebook: StarHuskiesD47

South Elementary

601 Golf Rd.
Rachael Alt, Principal
815.788.5400
www.d47.org/sou
Twitter: SouthD47
Facebook: SouthD47

West Elementary

100 Briarwood Rd.
Beth Klinsky, Principal
815.788.5550
www.d47.org/wes
Twitter: D47West
Facebook: D47West

Woods Creek Elementary

1100 W. Alexandra Blvd.
Amy Marks, Principal
815.444.4800
www.d47.org/wds
Twitter: WoodsCreekD47
Facebook: WoodsCreekD47

Bernotas Middle School

170 N. Oak St.
Kellie Marks, Principal
815.788.5600
www.d47.org/rbm
Twitter: BernotasVikings
Facebook: BernotasVikings
Instagram: bernotas1

Hannah Beardsley Middle School

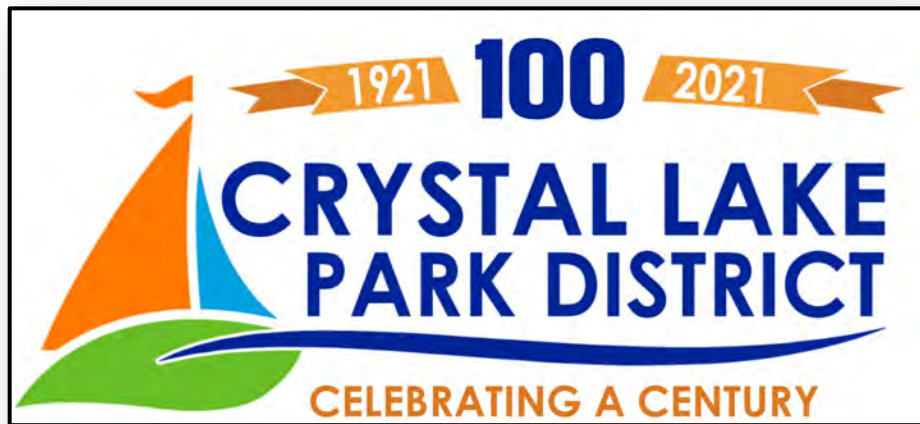
515 E. Crystal Lake Ave.
Cathy Alberth, Principal
815.788.5750
www.d47.org/hbm
Twitter: HBMBears
Facebook: BeardsleyBears

Lundahl Middle School

560 Nash Rd.
Angie Compere, Principal
815.788.5450
www.d47.org/lms
Twitter: LundahlLions
Facebook: LundahlLions

Wehde Early Childhood Center

1120 Village Rd.
Monica Furlong, Principal
815.477.6968
www.d47.org/ec
Twitter: D47_EC
Facebook: D47EC



Crystal Lake Park District Annual Report 2020

WE'RE CELEBRATING
100
1921-2021

The Crystal Lake Park District staff has been busy researching our rich 100 year history and the positive impact our services have had on Crystal Lake residents! Take the journey with us in 2021 as we explore the growth of the Park District through the decades!

- Trivia and other fun social media contests
- In-depth articles, photos and interactive timeline on our website
- Park "Pop Up" Events
- Themes & Games at the Concerts in the Park Series
- Look for more historic happenings throughout the year...

Park District staff office located in Main Beach, 1940s

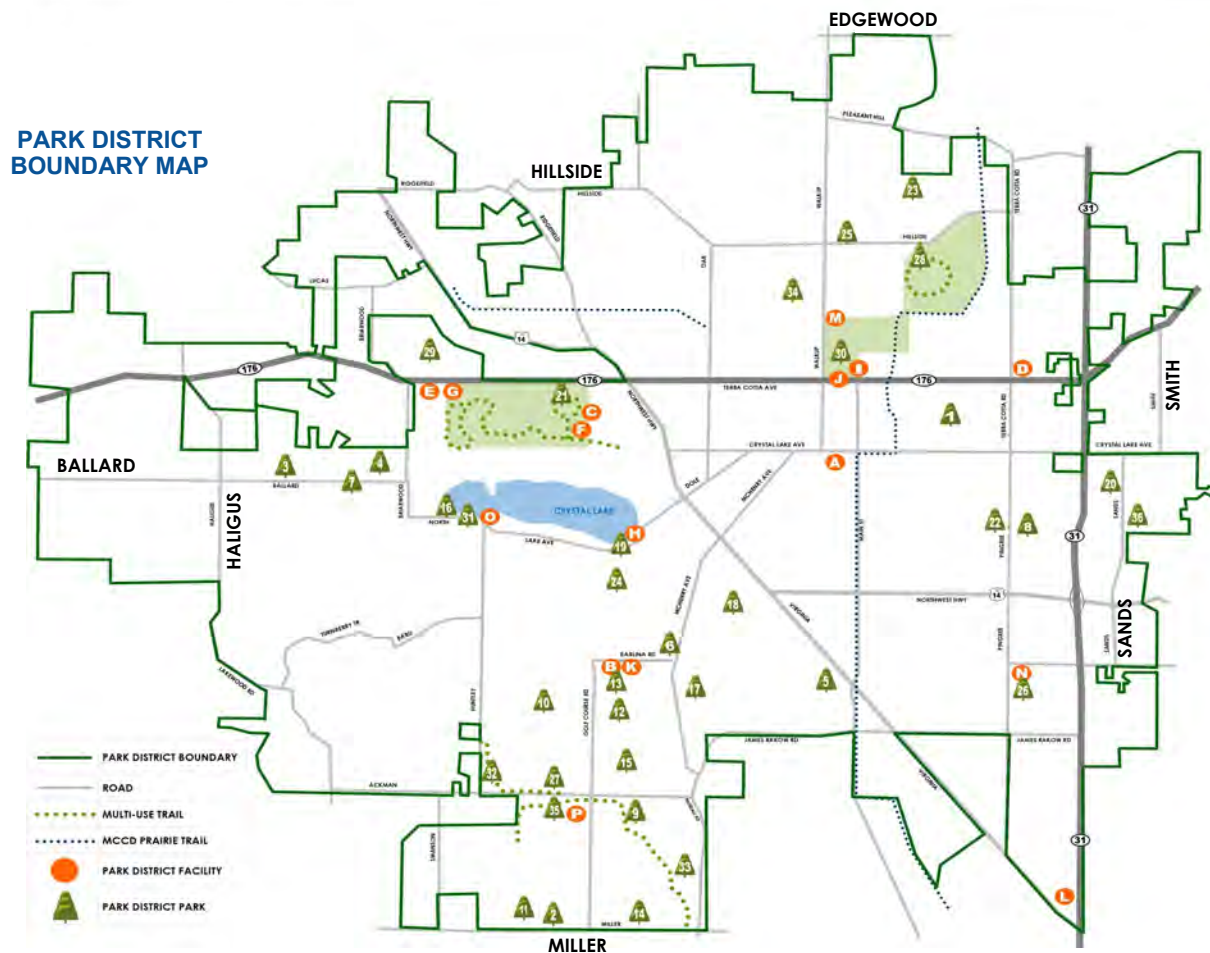
100 Year Anniversary Committee, 2020



I. ORGANIZATIONAL FOCUS

The Crystal Lake Park District is a separate unit of local government, accounting for approximately 5% of one's property tax bill. Charged with providing park and recreation services for approximately 55,000 residents in Crystal Lake, Lakewood and a small portion of Lake in the Hills, the Crystal Lake Park District system includes 42 parks and 17 facilities spanning over 1,400 acres and program offerings of over 1,000 annually. Facilities include the Nature Center, Main and West Beaches, Colonel Palmer House, Lippold Family Golf Center, Boncosky Softball Complex at Lippold Park, Grand Oaks Recreation/Active Adult Center, Racket Club, Barlina House Preschool, the Rotary Building, numerous picnic shelters, sports fields and tennis/pickleball courts.

In addition to parks, facilities and programs, the district maintains miles of bike and hiking trails enjoyed by many throughout the year. Crystal Lake Park District provides three seasonal activity guides filled with programs and special events designed for participants of all ages. The Crystal Lake Park District hosts a nationally accredited and award winning summer day camp program each summer as well as an Extended Time before and after school program at District 47 Elementary Schools.





MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the lives of our residents by providing programs, services, facilities and open spaces that safely promote health, recreation and community in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner.

II. ANNUAL REVIEW



Photo Credit: Matthew Appgar, Northwest Herald

As with all areas of our community, the Crystal Lake Park District has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A significant number of programs were cancelled and those that were able to run were done so in a manner likely different than in the past. Facility and shelter rentals were minimal and summer operations were downsized considerably. Due to historically sound fiscal management along with major adjustments to operations, the Crystal Lake Park District is in good financial standing at this time. Many new ways of managing the district were developed as a result of the current situation and some of these will become new standard operating procedures. Much of the operations were impacted by the rules outlined in the Governor's Executive Order pertaining to COVID-19 and the Crystal Lake Park District is grateful to the community for their patience and understanding as those guidelines were navigated on almost a daily basis.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2017-2022 Strategic Plan continues to progress as expected. Of the 162 items in the plan, 146 are either complete or on schedule to be completed on time. The remaining items are scheduled to start in the upcoming year to close out the current plan. Some examples of items that have been completed include:

- ◆ Developed a policy to guide future acquisition of open spaces, natural areas and facilities
- ◆ Prepared a report on how to improve the trail marking system to include a standardized trail marking system combined with utilizing new technology for trail mapping
- ◆ Monitored technology use regarding program registration and used information to improve customer service
- ◆ Focused on customer retention by developing loyalty/appreciation programs and promotions
- ◆ Using intergovernmental agreements for expanded programs to be held in schools





RECREATION UPDATE

EXTENDED TIME AND SUMMER DAY CAMP

The Park District plays a critical role in the lives of many local residents as the child care provider for working parents. The Extended Time (Before/After School) program as well as the Summer Day Camp program were significantly impacted by COVID-19. Staff worked quickly to modify operational procedures to ensure a safe environment for students. Working with D47 on a weekly basis, the Park District adapted programs and locations to accommodate the needs of the residents.



EXTENDED TIME STUDENTS



SUMMER DAY CAMP

NATURE CENTER “POP UPS” AND SCAVENGER HUNT

Understanding the need to adapt to the COVID-19 restrictions, staff offered free events to encourage residents to visit our parks and enjoy the outdoors. The Nature Center hosted a series of Park “POP UPS” for students to explore nature in different ways. A series of scavenger hunts were created to provide entertainment in a safe and responsible manner.



NATURE CENTER “POP UP”



**THIS RESIDENT FOUND ONE
OF THE CLUES TO OUR
SCAVENGER HUNT**



MAIN AND WEST BEACH

Main Beach opened for an abbreviated season with many new operating procedures to accommodate COVID-19 restrictions and rules. In an effort to maintain organizational resources and maximize staffing, West Beach remained closed.

Rentals of boat, kayak, paddle board and canoes at Main Beach set new records. The implementation of an online reservation and payment system was instrumental in the volume of rentals and also promoted social distancing.

Staff worked with the McHenry County health department on a weekly basis to establish park and beach attendance limitations.



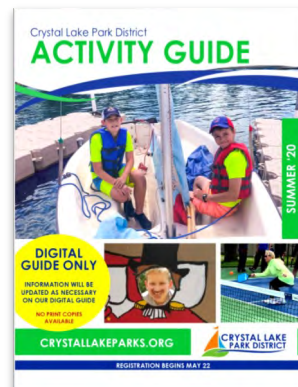
THE RACKET CLUB

The Park District noted early on in the COVID-19 restrictions that outdoor tennis play at our ten park tennis facilities had exponentially increased, again another resource for residents to enjoy recreation and the outdoors. Pickleball has exploded in numbers in our region and Spoerl Park's dedicated pickleball courts remain packed. Even with the increase in unemployment and COVID-19 setbacks, the Racket Club has seen a 8.5% increase in tennis activity through programs and lessons.



BARLINA HOUSE PRESCHOOL

Barlina House Preschool has been able to operate a normal schedule while following all COVID-19 protocols.



SEASONAL ACTIVITY GUIDE

The seasonal activity guide was published in digital-only format to accommodate the frequent changes due to COVID-19. Significant dollars were saved by not having to print and mail the guide to 24,000 households each season.



VETERAN ACRES/STERNE'S WOODS TRAIL SYSTEM

Trail use appeared to be at an all-time high with people looking to get out and enjoy the outdoors during these challenging times. A comprehensive trail marking system has begun throughout Veteran Acres/Sterne's Woods. Three of the nine trails have new markers and trail head signage installed. Work will continue through 2021.



PROJECT UPDATES

- ◆ Spoerl Park: parking lot was repaved and expanded. New lighting was also added.
- ◆ Asbury Park: the 22 year old playground was replaced and benches, picnic tables and a walking path were added.
- ◆ Lippold Park Family Golf Center: the aging deck was replaced with composite decking that will last much longer than traditional wood decking.
- ◆ Main and West Boat Launches: the old boat gate key systems that were no longer technically supported were replaced with new key FOB systems.
- ◆ Rotary Building at Veteran Acres: retaining walls alongside the building were replaced to provide a stable footing for the building.
- ◆ Oakwoods Lodge Parking Lot: the gravel parking lot was re-engineered and paved to insure the lot no longer floods during major storm events.
- ◆ Touchless pay systems are now available at all facilities.



ASBURY PARK PLAYGROUND



LIPPOLD FAMILY GOLF CENTER DECKING



III. CURRENT STATE OF OPERATIONS

2020 TAX LEVY

The Crystal Lake Park District Board of Commissioners moved to not increase the tax levy by the full amount at the December 2020 Park Board meeting. The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) this year allows for an increase of 2.3%. After much thought and consideration, the Park Board settled on a lesser amount of 1.5%.

Strong consideration was given to a flat levy (no increase), but capturing new growth and accommodating the continued increases in minimum wage required by law and concerns with considerable lost revenue due to COVID-19 were some of the factors that came into play.

The Crystal Lake Park District tax rate is expected to decrease again this year for the sixth consecutive year.

1.5% WITH NEW GROWTH					
2019 RATE: 0.488625 2020 EST RATE: 0.477017					
HOME VALUE	2019 ASSESSED VALUE	2019 TAXES	2020 ESTIMATED REASSESSED VALUE	2020 PROPOSED TAX	INCREASE
150,000	50,000	244.31	51,500	245.66	1.35
200,000	66,667	325.75	68,667	327.55	1.80
250,000	83,333	407.19	85,833	409.44	2.25
300,000	100,000	488.63	103,000	491.33	2.70
350,000	116,667	570.06	120,167	573.22	3.16
400,000	133,333	651.50	137,333	655.10	3.60
450,000	150,000	732.94	154,500	736.99	4.05
500,000	166,667	814.38	171,667	818.88	4.50



ENGAGEMENT - HOW CAN AUDIENCE STAY INFORMED

The Crystal Lake Park District Marketing Department continues to stay on top of current trends and is always seeking ways to communicate with residents who may not be using Park District services or programs.

In addition to our seasonal (3) activity guides, the Park District publishes and mails quarterly Park Report newsletters. Understanding that many residents do not read the activity guides, these newsletters are to inform our community of upcoming projects and other significant happenings within the Park District.

Social media users may stay informed of up-to-date information on programs and special events by subscribing to the Park District platforms. Currently the number of people following the Park District:



FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS
9,632 FOLLOWERS



INSTAGRAM
1,817 FOLLOWERS



TWITTER
406 FOLLOWERS

In addition, contests, trivia and other special events run on these platforms.

The Crystal Lake Park District also works cooperatively with the City of Crystal Lake, Village of Lakewood, School Districts 155 and 47, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Crystal Lake Association and the McHenry County Conservation District.

PARK BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monthly Board Meetings

The Crystal Lake Park District Board meets the 3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm, at the Administration Office (lower level), 1 E. Crystal Lake Avenue, Crystal Lake. The schedule and Board member contact information can be found at crystallakeparks.org/board-information.

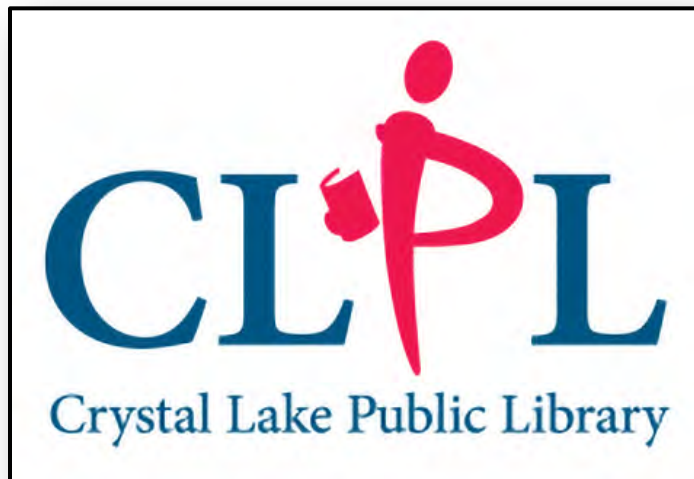
PARK BOARD MEMBERS

Debbie Gallagher, President
Shawn Zimmerman, Vice President
Cathy Cagle, Treasurer
Jason Heisler, Asst. Treasurer
Michele Hartwig
Caroline Bachour
Thomas Aquilina

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Jason Herbster, Executive Director

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Crystal Lake Public Library

Annual Report 2020





I. Organizational Focus

The Crystal Lake Public Library has been serving the community since 1913. The Library began with a collection of books and magazines in the vacant H. A. Dodge home on Pomeroy Avenue. As demand for its services grew, the Library was moved to larger spaces over several decades. Finally in 1952, a small stand-alone Library was built at its current site at 126 Paddock Street. Eventually, the small building was leveled, and a larger facility was constructed in 1965. Two building additions/expansions followed, one in 1984 and another in 1995. In October 2020, the Library launched a new Repairs Project to fix an aged HVAC system and leaking windows - and adapt the building to COVID-19 mitigation standards.

The Library is **Your Community Place for Lifelong Learning**.

Crystal Lake Public Library is guided by the following mission statement:

"Helping people, of all ages and backgrounds, learn, enjoy and better their lives."



The Library Adapts, Continues to Serve the Community in COVID-19 Times

Like most organizations, the Crystal Lake Public Library was forced to quickly transition traditional services in 2020 to meet the needs of the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the spring, Library staff had to pivot and determine the best possible means to offer services to the community while insuring patrons and staffers safety. Using a new software system, staff developed a reservation system to support a new contact-free curbside service that enabled patrons to proceed with borrowing Library materials - books, audiobooks, movies and craft kits. Patrons were given the option to obtain/renew Library cards via email. The Library instituted a fine-free policy to encourage borrowing. The Library also invested significant funds in eResources in order to provide access to materials during COVID-19 stay-at-home restriction periods.

Program planners learned to effectively redesign their event to virtual offerings - creating prerecorded storytimes, craft and cooking demonstrations, and book reviews. Some programmers utilized online Zoom meetings to host virtual book clubs, garden seminars and the like. By sharing the programs online, the Library has reached more people than ever, and patrons have the option to rewatch programs on the CLPL YouTube Channel at anytime. As always, Library cardholders have 24/7 access to the eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, TV shows, movies and a plethora of resources in the CLPL digital collection.



CLPL youth librarian Seanine Brady hands take-and-make craft kits to patrons.



All residents and businesses located within the City of Crystal Lake are eligible for a Crystal Lake Public Library card. The Library building is scheduled to be closed from approximately January to early spring 2021 for repairs and renovation. Many patrons stocked up on materials in December. Patrons can continue to borrow materials from the CLPL eLibrary and, depending upon COVID-19 restrictions, from libraries that belong in the sharing consortium.

Here's what you can typically borrow with your Library card:

Books: regular, large print and digital

DVDs/Blu-rays: movies, TV, learning

Audiobooks: CDs and digital

CDs: Classical, rock, kids

Electronic resources 24/7 on website: eBooks, eMagazines, audiobooks, movies and music

Digital collection: OverDrive, TumbleBooks, hoopla, Flipster

Library database: Access to Consumer Reports, Reference USA, Mango Languages, lynda.com and other resources

HelpNow: Homework help, online resource

Creativebug: Art & craft video tutorials presented by experts

AncestryLibrary: Family history research

Foreign language materials: Spanish and Polish

Literacy and STEM kits, puzzles

Wi-Fi Hotspots

Video games, Playaway Launchpads, Kindle Fire

Homework Help CDs
BOOKS
Audiobooks Blu-rays
DVDs **STEM**
Wi-Fi Hotspots **Kits**
eLibrary
Creativebug

More services provided by the Library:

Virtual programs: Storytimes for kids and adults; cooking and craft demonstrations; book reviews and recommendations; and Zoom seminars about gardening and travel. Virtual book clubs and social gatherings.

Reference and readers assistance: Call the CLPL Call Center 815.459.1687,x5 for help finding materials answers, referrals, and reading recommendations. Visit clpl.org to fill out a book recommendation request form.

Library card: Obtain/renew a card online, visit clpl.org.

Library consortium: View and reserve materials on the CLPL catalog and 25 other area libraries.

Literacy programs: Book clubs, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, summer reading program.

Robust Wi-Fi, free internet and computers

Visit the clpl.org calendar
for a list of upcoming programs!



II. Annual Review:

The Library saves residents money.

The Library promotes early literacy.

The Library teaches children via STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) programs.

The Library offers programs that enhance residents lives, from art to technology.

The Library meets residents' ever-changing needs for technology and resources.

The Library is green in nature, as it has promoted the sharing and reuse of materials for the past 107 years.

Accomplishments:

Building Repairs Project Continues; New Features Include Drive-up Service Window

The Crystal Lake Public Library shifted to offering all-virtual services in mid-December 2020 as repairs and renovation work expanded to the interior of the building. Since the state of Illinois implemented stricter guidelines due to the rise in COVID-19 cases in the community, the Library took advantage of this period to close the building and proceed with the improvements, which will take several months to complete.

Closing the building and having staff work remotely will enable contractors to finish the work in a much shorter time period. The scheduled work and improvements include:

- New DIY area in Adult Services providing space for flexible craft, DIY programs
- Walkways and aisles expanded to improve social distancing
- Portions of aged HVAC system replaced, improving ventilation throughout the Library building
- Leaking windows and roof repaired
- Improved lighting in interior portions of the building
- Improved staff work spaces to enhance social distancing
- Repairs to walkways and stairways to reduce tripping hazards
- New sitting and study areas
- Shelving improvements to make access to materials easier for patrons

Visit clpl.org for more details.

- A new drive-up book service window added to the east side of the building
- RFID technology implemented, and a new automated materials handling system installed, thereby allowing for faster check in and out periods
- New self-checkout machines will replace outdated machines
- New storytime/multi-use room built in Youth Services



III. Current State of Operations:

The Library Board exercises a high degree of fiscal conservatism with an emphasis on strategic planning. The Library receives 97% of its income from property taxes.

IV. Engagement:

The following print and digital resources are available to keep the public informed about Library programs, services and news:

CLPL.org: Library website.

Beacon newsletter: Print newsletter produced bimonthly and mailed to residents of the city of Crystal Lake; also available on clpl.org.

Beacon eNewsletter: Monthly electronic subscription publication; see Library website to subscribe.

Library Happenings eNewsletters: Sent monthly.

Facebook: Crystal Lake Public Library

Twitter: CLPL Today

Instagram: Crystal Lake Public Library and CLPL Teens

YouTube: Crystal Lake Public Library

Goodreads: Crystal Lake Public Library

CLPL Call Center: 815.459.1687,x5

ihaveaquestion@clpl.org




the Beacon
Crystal Lake Public Library
Learn • Enjoy • Explore

December 2020

Library Shifts to All-Virtual Services As Repairs Continue

HVAC Repairs, New Drive-Up Return/Service Window in the Works



Contractors work to repair leaking windows on the exterior of the Library building.

The Crystal Lake Public Library will shift to offering all-virtual services starting Dec. 13 as repairs and renovation work expands to the interior portion of the building. The Library is in the midst of implementing the Repairs 2020 project that began in October. As part of the project, the building's aged HVAC system will be partially replaced in order to provide improved air circulation and safer conditions for patrons and staff during COVID-19 times. A drive-up materials return drop and drive-up service window will be added to the east side of the building, two amenities that have long been requested by the community. An automated materials handling system will be installed, which will shorten the amount of time returned materials are listed on a patron's account. Additional repairs/renovations will include fixing leaking portions of the roof and windows, improving the interior and exterior lighting of the building, reconfiguring public and staff spaces to meet social distancing requirements for COVID-19 and adding new self-checkout stations. Since the State of Illinois has implemented stricter guidelines due to the rise of COVID-19 cases in the community, the Library is taking advantage of this time to close the building Dec. 13 and proceed with the improvements. Closing the building and having staff work remotely will enable contractors to finish the work in a much shorter time period. "We are fortunate that we've already implemented a robust virtual Library system so we can continue to serve our community," Library Director Kathryn I. Martens said. "Luckily, we had saved the money and planned for these improvements and since there are so many closings, we can take advantage of this time to make the repairs and renovations." Once all repairs are completed, the Crystal Lake community will see that the Library Board and staff put considerable effort and emphasis on making the building safe during COVID conditions, Martens said. Because the building will be closed for approximately two months, curbside service will be suspended as of Dec. 13. Patrons are encouraged to stock up on materials to use over the coming months. The last day for the curbside pickup service will be Saturday, Dec. 12. (continued on page 3)



A worker adds new RFID tags to materials. The tags work with the new automated materials handling system.

Check out our upcoming Virtual CLPL programs! →

Meet the Crystal Lake Public Library Board of Trustees



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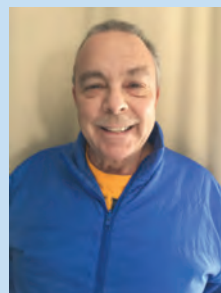
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Cary Waxler
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The Crystal Lake Public Library Board is comprised of nine city residents who are appointed by the mayor of Crystal Lake with the approval of the city council. The Library Board is responsible for governing the Library including overseeing its budget, policies and strategic plan. Board meetings are held via Zoom for the foreseeable future at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

Library Director

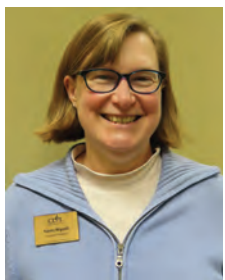


Kathryn I. Martens

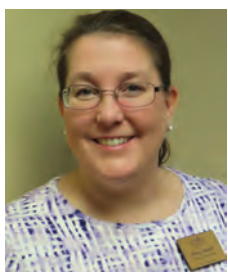
Kathryn I. Martens has served as Library Director since 1990. Martens has been active with the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce since 1997. You can contact her at kmartens@clpl.org or 815.459.5102.



Crystal Lake Public Library Department Heads



Karen Migaldi
Assistant Director
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kmigaldi@clpl.org



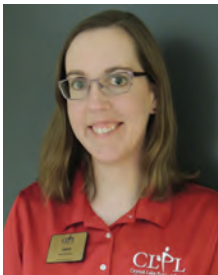
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CLPL Call Center Hours

Monday-Sunday 10 am-6 pm

Location

126 Paddock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
www.clpl.org, 815.459.1687

