

Crystal Lake Association

LETTER

Vol. No. 04/02

Since 1932, working for the preservation and improvement of Crystal Lake and its watershed for future generations.

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Term Expires 2004

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surface runoff from agriculture, residential, other ground use types, underground seepage, precipitation, and or waste water. The second is from natural physical, chemical and biological actions natural to the lake. Local management of such items as fertilizer can aid in the control

WATERSHED MNGT. With watershed mngt. Control or elimination of sources of nutrients that adversely effect the water quality of the lake . Although management is required areas such as the Inlet and Drain at the Township Park watershed would greatly aid the problem. **INLET:** The inlet begins at a wetland North of Stanton Rd. in a wooded undeveloped, agriculture area.

Employment of practices such as BMP, with assistance from USDA, CPR, WRP, FSA, can share in conservation that would protect against these problems. A 2nd solution could be a Detention Basin in the tributary upstream. Allowing the sediment to fall out into the basin previous to arrival at the lake.

TOWNSHIP PARK DRAIN: South Shore Dr. has drain gates that collects runoff diverts such to the lake. Could be cause of nutrient & fecal coliform as could the public restroom (sewage holding system) at the park. **IN-LAKE MANAGEMENT**

TECHNIQUES: It is recommended that

Crystal Lake continue with lake analysis. The more data that is acquired on the lakes water quality the better. One years data is just a blink in the geological life span of a lake. Multiple years of data collection is required before any trends will be revealed. Continued monitoring will give advance notice of any lake problems developing. If notice is taken that phosphorus levels are rising action can be taken to slow this down before algal bloom takes over the lake. It is suggested that the CLA could purchase a Secchi disk and a temperature/dissolved oxygen meter and w/instruction make weekly transparency, temp. and dissolved oxygen readings, although this is not much it would for worm of changing conditions.

ZEBRA MUSSELS: At this time there is nothing that can be done. Follow the DNR's suggestion for slowing them down by cleaning off boat bottoms and etc. **EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL** Recommend that the two small beds be eradicated

(To be coved in next news letter)

Anyone wishing a complete copy of AAT Labs, 32 page, Crystal Lake Aquatic Survey may obtain it by sending a request to Buck Last, Plus \$3.20 to cover the copy cost.

RICHARD REMSBERG COMMENTS

For the last two years the CLA has requested that speed limits be reduced on Sidney Rd., West of Sloan Rd. To Pine Grove Rd. (The area is abounding with walkers, joggers, and bicyclers.) Changes were also requested for Waldron Rd. To the boat launch site. The recent passage of Michigan Law make changes in speed laws a lot less complicated and relatively automatic with a mere request of the governing body, (Township) to the County Road Commission.

“My understanding is that the State Police found something in the new speed limit law that they were required to clarify. They have requested that implementation be delayed while they study the problem. They are not at this time defining the problem. Two weeks ago today (17Feb01) I tried to discuss it with, State Representative,

Two bright spots are the Park and Recreation Committee and the Crystal Township Planning Commission. The Park and Recreation Committee has received the go ahead for the park revitalization project thanks to the hard work of Garret Bakker, The Planning Commission is working towards protecting the rural character of our community, maintaining the local village and its unique appeal. This plan also protects our natural resources, lakes, streams and wetlands. While encouraging economic development in our downtown business area.

The lake community need to help improve the business climate in Crystal by working with the Township Board, Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, Crystal Lake Association, Crystal Arts Council, Crystal Lake Association and others to promote our many resources. They include Motor Sports, Golf, an excellent Sailing Club, Boating, Water Sports, Dining, Ball Field Activities and

Larry Devuyst, and he appeared to not know what I was talking about. I have also e-mailed his office about this question and have not as yet received a response. Mr. Devuyst did request that we keep in contact with his office and that he was sure that they would have a conclusive answer. I will continue to do this.”

If anyone is interested in contacting their state representative, the bill is entitled “House Bill 4206”.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

Article By: John C. Bird Jr.

There are a number of areas in our township that a slight change in direction will produce a significant improvement in the quality of life for everyone. They are Police coverage and public safety, road conditions, the Downtown Development Plan, Park and Recreation Plan, and Community Promotion.

First lets talk about Police coverage and public safety. Unfortunately Crystal has developed the reputation as a place where anything goes. During certain times hostile groups move about town and the park area overindulging and looking for unsavory Community Events like the Jamboree and Arts Fest and Car Show. These are just a sample and I apologize in advance for any activities I’ve not mentioned. We must be working together and getting involved instead of waiting for someone else to do it. We must promote the entire community. We must support a robust local economy, finding uses for the empty or abandoned buildings, requiring owner action on the burned out houses and other community eye sores.

We need to encourage and hold accountable the Township Board, to facilitate all these activities and encourage more. (They need your support and participation) We have lots of creative people, that would like to develop dinner theater, bible studies, cooking classes, weight loss clubs and activities, an active historical society etc.. etc., but someone has to start the ball rolling.

What is the first step towards developing Crystal Township into the

activity giving you the “I dare you to do anything about it stare.” The latest fad seems to be howling in the dark etc. This is hardly the environment we want our children and grandchildren and elderly to be exposed too and it is easily remedied. We need a small increase of Police coverage in conjunction with a neighborhood watch initiative getting the community involved taking back control of our town making it a safer and more comfortable place to live.

Our paved roads need some attention, which will require working with the County Commissioners and Road Commission. While we are addressing the Township infrastructure we need to revitalize the Downtown Development Project. Several years ago some good work was done but for the last number of years instead of updating the project and funding request and improving it we just slapped a cover sheet on the old request submitting the same old plan and taking a wait and see approach. We have some excellent talent right here in our own community to help work on these Grants but we need to mobilize these people and aggressively seek State and Federal funds.

kind of township we can all be proud of, the kind of Township we can take our kids downtown for ice cream or swimming or a picnic in the park, the kind of township that maintains the unique *VILLAGE* atmosphere? It is, **Getting Personally Involved,**

CRYSTAL LAKE NEEDS YOU!

CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP TAX BASE

ARTICLE BY: JOHN C. BIRD JR.

Crystal Township has a solid tax base as reported in the 2000 year Assessment Roll Certificate. The Board of review indicates that the source of tax funds is as follows:

Agriculture	10%
Commercial	4 %
Industrial	0%
Residential	82%
Personal	4%
Total	100%

(It is interesting to note that trailers pay **NO TAXES.**)

The 1990 Census recorded 1467

dwelling units in Crystal Township. We see from the potential Crystal Lake Membership roll of almost 600 and recognizing that lake property is at a premium that lake property contributes well over **65%** of the Township Tax revenue.

Based on this analysis, a source and use of Tax funds study would be very interesting. We should be asking the Township Board for this kind of information and holding them accountable for spending 65% of their budget on lake issues.)

Why then do the concerns of the Lake Association go unheeded? Police protection lacking where it is needed, the burned out eyesores, and the lack of Nuisance Ordinance are prime examples. The answer is apathy on “**OUR**” part. We must get involved in community affairs and fulfill our civic duty in order to turn Crystal Lake into the kind of place it was 30 years ago!

THE POTENTIAL IS THERE, BUT THE OUTCOME IS IN OUR HANDS. THE LAKE ASSOCIATION CAN HELP, BUT WE CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

CLA BOARD NOTES

ZONING: If YOU favor zoning for the Crystal Township Area, it is time to rally YOUR support, to make zoning permanent. Zoning is now in it's 3rd Year, and through petition, referendum and vote, zoning could be voted out in the next year to 18 months. The importance of zoning effect all of us who live in the Township as well as those of us whom live on the Lake. It is very evident that there is a vocal minority (15-20) group of people that attend every Planning Commission meeting, Township Board Meeting and Public Hearing, etc. Who oppose everything relative to future planning.

BLIGHT / NOISE ORDINANCE: A committee has been formed to study the proposed ordinance which is standard in the majority of Michigan counties and townships. Again there is a group of people whom are opposed to any positive zoning laws to prohibit or control the blight and adverse noise with in the township.

Rena Ray, Carole Bird, Buck Last, and the Township Officials,

Trustees, Clerk, and Assessor, as well as the new Township Supervisor or offer an even, positive balance to both Zoning and Blight/Noise Ordinances. The Township Officials, Trustees, Clerk, Assessor, and newly elected Township Supervisor appear to have CLA/Lake friendly ear, as well.

NEW TOWN HALL: There have been three Public Hearings on this issue. One faction envisions a 400 to 500 seat auditorium, to accommodate the Crystal Jamboree. The estimate for this structure would likely *exceed 3/4 million dollars*. Another group prefers a completely new town hall at a new location with offices for the Township Clerk, Treasurer, Supervisor and Police Department, plus meeting/seating space for 100 people. The estimate of \$150,000.00 to \$500,000.00. Others favor researching the cost and the practicability of renovating the current town hall. This option is being studied. *Whatever option is chosen, is subject to TAX PAYER (Resident) approval and will result in additional millage to pay for the project.*

CRYSTAL LAKE ASSOCIATION 2001 MEMBERSHIP

Please see the attached 2001 membership slip. Please *feel free* to fill out the *optional info*. Area previous to sending in your membership. This will help us, your **CLA Board** better to understand, **WHAT** it is you would like us to add to our 2001 agenda.