

**Crystal Lake Association**  
**P.O. Box 307**  
**Crystal, MI 48818**

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on Facebook for Current Events

### CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Crystal Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE VIA EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

<b>WE NOW ACCEPT PAYPAL, CREDIT CARDS &amp; ACH. Pay to: Crystal Lake Association</b>	<b>2021 ANNUAL DUES (\$45.00)</b>	\$ _____
	Fireworks Donation (2021 Target \$10,000)	\$ _____
	Water Quality Fund (2021 Target \$11,000)	\$ _____
	Legal Defense Fund	\$ _____
	<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

**Mail To:**  
Crystal Lake Association (CLA)  
P.O. Box 307; Crystal MI 48818

**Renew online at:**  
[www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm](http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm)

**CLA Mission**

To protect the interest of the members of this Association in the real property owned by them; to endeavor to maintain the natural level in said lake; to protect against water pollution and unhealthy conditions; to secure adequate protection against fire, theft and pilfering, to secure improved roads leading to and around the lake; to protect and promote good fishing condition in said lake; and for such other purposes as shall be beneficial to the interests of said members and the community.

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**CLA General Membership Meeting**

July 10th 10am  
Sailing Club

**Advertising Sponsors Accepted**

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

[roxy4msu@yahoo.com](mailto:roxy4msu@yahoo.com)

# Crystal Lake Association

Established June 5, 1932 [www.crystalonline.org](http://www.crystalonline.org)

Dear Reader,

This complimentary, spring newsletter is written and distributed by the Crystal Lake Association for each property owner in the Crystal Lake area. We hope you enjoy it and will consider being a supporter this year.

With best regards,

Cheryl McNeil, CLA Newsletter Editor

## Let's Do It Again!

Membership Chair, Nancy Ayres

Spring is in the air and hopes for summer returning to "normal" probably have a lot of us excited. While there are many things associated with the calendar year 2020 I would just as soon forget, one I will remember is the near record number of CLA members - 318. Our membership goal for 2021 is 320, so – lets do it again!

Having a beautiful place such as Crystal Lake to help get through the past pandemic-filled year was certainly helpful to many. The CLA can only do the work we do for the lake with support through memberships and additional donations toward fireworks and water quality. So to each of the 318 members from 2020, THANK YOU!

Remember that you don't have to be a property owner to be a member. If you boat, swim or fish on the lake, you can be a member. If you come to enjoy the fireworks on July 4, you can be a member. If you enjoy the migrating birds and other wildlife on the lake, you can be a member. If you simply love Crystal Lake, you can be a member.

If you are a new property owner on or around the lake in 2021, your first year's CLA membership is free. Please contact me directly [nayres3801@gmail.com](mailto:nayres3801@gmail.com) or when filling out the membership form (*front page*) just write "new property owner" on the form and we will waive the \$45 membership fee.

We look forward to a great year on Crystal Lake. Thank you for your support. Please stay safe and have a great time on our beautiful lake.

## Specializing in Lakefront and Residential Properties



**Fred Engle, Realtor**  
Cell 989-560-4857



**Interest rates are low and homes are selling.  
If you are thinking of selling, spring is a great time.  
Living on Crystal Lake, I can personally serve you best.**

## Board Directors 2020-21

### President

Steve Meinhardt  
[steve@casair.net](mailto:steve@casair.net)

### Vice President

Nancy Ayres  
[nayres3801@gmail.com](mailto:nayres3801@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Kim Morgan

### Secretary

Roxy Eaton

### Directors:

Tim Dorch  
Eric Johnson  
Joe Kopchick  
Mike Manning  
Cheryl McNeil  
Kent Roth

## Goose Maintenance Program

*CLA Chair, Eric Johnson*

The geese are coming back. I counted 12 pair on my last scouting trip around the lake. On one hand, it's a welcome sign that spring and summer are at hand, bringing all the fun activities that come with them. On the other, it reminds us of the work we need to do to minimize the negative impact that too many geese have on the quality of the summer experience.

Last year, we were unable to conduct the "Goose Roundup" due to Covid concerns. Luckily, our nest maintenance program greatly helped curb the goose population. We thank the folks at MDNR for their help carrying out these programs. This year we hope to be able to use both programs again. Here's how you can help:

1. Please scout the areas around your property and adjoining properties and report the location of any nesting couples you observe.
2. Volunteer to help with the "Goose Roundup". We need people on the lake to herd geese families to the collection site, scouts on the shore encouraging the families into the water, and volunteers to help set up and take down the collection site. This typically occurs mid-June.

We will keep you up-to-date via the CLA website ([crystalonline.org](http://crystalonline.org)) as well as the "Crystal comes together" blog site. You can also contact me for information or questions at: [ejohnson@edzone.net](mailto:ejohnson@edzone.net)

Thank you and enjoy your summer!

## Why CLA Membership?

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

### Membership is easy:

visit website  
[crystalonline.org](http://crystalonline.org)  
or  
mail form (front page)  
or  
call 616-901-3961  
for pick-up!

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

## Prominent Township Items

*CLA Township Mtg Rep, Tim Dorch*

The **Community Center** (old school) has the Board's attention again. After considerable investments of time, money, meetings, and public surveys, the path forward is murky. On March 10, the Board voted 4-1 to hold another public workshop to explore options due to lack of Board consensus on building footprint, repair priorities, improvements, and budgeting. Preliminary costs for this building are substantial. In 2020, the township paid ~\$100,000 for highest priority roof repairs. Additional problems remain: the older section and its roof, out-of-code alarm system, heating, air conditioning, electrical and plumbing upgrades, Americans With Disability Act compliance, etc. It is unlikely that the Township budget could support, at least in the short term, baseline needs.

Crystal Township's contract for 40 hours/week of dedicated, **sheriff patrol** coverage was renewed intact for 2021. The August ballot will ask Crystal Township voters whether to renew this special coverage contract or not, given the increased, county-wide, sheriff millage passed in 2020.

The Board reopened the **retail marijuana** licensing window for 2/01-6/01/2021. Supervisor McCracken said the new owners of the property formerly known as Crystal ATV and Marine have indicated an interest. Lucky Buds, on Main St, is currently licensed for medical marijuana. The Board indicated that it has no current interest in expanding licensing to production facilities.

For the second time, the **Crystal Township Park** grant funding request was denied. Accordingly, the township will submit an improved application for a third time. The amount requested was \$300,000. The township committed \$100,000 from the general budget, while the remaining \$157,000 was to come from charitable and 'in kind' contributions.

Neighboring townships have scrambled to create zoning and ordinances as **wind turbines** have sprouted in their communities. Crystal Township has not, as of March, been contacted by Apex Clean Energy, the leading windmill project company in Montcalm County. Perhaps Crystal Township is not an ideal fit

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## Fireworks!

*CLA Chair, Mike Manning*

Yes, can you believe it is almost that time? Our Crystal Lake fireworks display will be on July 4<sup>th</sup> as usual.

We are hoping to upgrade the show, but the ability to do so centers around upgrades to the barges. We are in the process of determining the best possible way to accomplish this. One option is to add another float tube to each existing barge to better support the load of the racks of tubes that hold and shoot the fireworks. Another option is to add another barge. Both options involve substantial rework of the barges to carry load higher out of the water for better support of the load and the pounding that the barges receive from the lift-off of each firework shell. The objective, of course, is to get the best fireworks show possible.

We hope that you will continue donations to the fireworks fund. For many years, we have funded the show completely on these donations. We appreciate you and hope you enjoy this year's show!



## Boat Launch Parking Problem

*CLA Member, Bonnie Kanitz*

At the July 2020 CLA Annual Meeting, membership requested the CLA Board revisit what can be done about North Shore DNR launch parking. During heavy traffic weekends and holidays, the parking lot is overcrowded and vehicles with trailers park along the roadsides and grassy curb areas near the area in violation of "No Parking" signs. Vehicles without trailers, parked in the boat launch lot, take valuable parking spaces. The Crystal Lake Association has made a request to the DNR to have Crystal Lake added to the following Land Use regulation:

**USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR** By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

### **2.106 Vehicle and trailer parking within certain access sites and harbors, prohibited conduct.**

Order 2.106 A person **shall not** do any of the following:

Chapter (9) Park a motorized vehicle without a trailer attached in any area other than a parking space designated as "parking for vehicles without trailers" between the hours of 4:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m. on any Saturday, Sunday, or holiday on any of the following state-owned lands:

- (a) Lake Fenton boating access site 25-2, section 14, T5N R6E, Genesee county.
- (b) **Little Whitefish lake boating access site 59-9, section 8, T11N R10W, Montcalm county.**
- (c) Orchard lake boating access site 63-1, section 14, T2N R9E, Oakland county.
- (d) Union lake boating access site 63-2, section 1, T2N R8E, Oakland county.

Crystal is by far the largest lake in Montcalm County, yet this boat launch has no oversight on weekends and holidays. Something needs to be done as this has been an issue at the lake for years. Many recreational boaters cannot understand why Little Whitefish Lake is singled out in this Chapter for parking and Crystal is unregulated. The DNR says it does not have manpower to monitor this launch site and cannot delegate authority.

The Montcalm County Sheriff states they are unable to issue citations for parking violations in the boat launch parking area as it is State land. The DNR is calling the Sheriff to confirm they can, however, issue citations for those vehicles parking along the roadside at the boat launch where "No Parking" signs are posted.

As the DNR stated, the wheel turns slowly, so action to include Crystal Lake in the Land Use Regulations may not be accomplished by this summer. They have requested pictures when parking along the roadway occurs and vehicles without trailers are parked in the boat launch parking lot. Please forward pictures to the CLA Facebook page and we will relay to our DNR contact. Your help will speed this issue through the correct DNR channels.

## Water Quality Report – March 2021

*CLA Water Quality Chair, Joe Kopchick*

After last year's water quality monitoring hiatus, we will resume our program this year. Due to a state budget impasse, the 2020 program was suspended but funds have now been restored. We are enrolled in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) for phosphorous, chlorophyll, and Secchi disk clarity measurements. The program is supported by the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (MLSA) and coordinates with the Michigan DNR and EGLE departments.

MLSA will hold its annual conference, virtually, on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The conference includes refresher training for lake monitoring followed by informational webinars.

Spring Total Phosphorous was sampled on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, after the ice went out. As the nutrient that leads to

algae growth, we need to learn whether it was phosphorous or was heavy rain, sunshine and warm water that caused last year's algae blooms. Additionally, on a monthly basis from May through September we will sample chlorophyll to measure the level of algae and other micro-organisms. On a weekly basis, we will measure water clarity with the Secchi disk. Comparing our data to that of prior years and data from other lakes will let us know if we have a developing problem.

Surveying the lake for aquatic invasive species, primarily Eurasian water milfoil and starry stonewort, will also occur. Last September we identified and treated a few problem areas, hopefully preventing a return of these intruders this year. The survey will be arranged for June with treatment if necessary, to follow.

## Night Boating Safety - It's About Proper Lights and Attention

*CLA Director, Tim Dorch*

***The Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities*** by the Michigan DNR is widely available in paperback and on the DNR website. Under *Nighttime Navigation*, we are to "be on the lookout for the lights of other vessels when boating at night."

- Sidelights, red port/left and green starboard/right are to be visible to approaching vessels from the side and head-on.
- Sternlight, white is to be seen from behind the vessel.
- Masthead Light, white shining forward and to both sides is required on all power-driven vessels and must be displayed when under engine power. The absence of this light indicates a sailboat under sail. (NOT docking lights).
- All-Around White Light on power driven vessels <39.4 ft may be used to combine a Masthead Light and a Sternlight into a single white light that can be seen by other vessels in any direction (360 degrees). This also serves as an anchor light when not underway and when sidelights are extinguished.

Michigan law requires "if underway between sunset and sunrise or periods of reduced visibility, vessels must be equipped and exhibit navigation lights."

For boats <26 ft, (a) red and green sidelights must be visible from a distance of at least one mile and (b) an all-around white light must be visible from a distance of at least two miles and must be higher than the sidelights. The DNR advises displaying a white light whenever anchored or adrift at night.

Further rules for encountering vessels at night, including special rules for sailboats also exist.

From ***Night Boating... A Whole New Ballgame*** by Commander Bob Admin, June 19, 2020 (*thank you Crystal Lake Yacht Club - Marina Facebook postings*)

"A night cruise can be one of the most relaxing and enjoyable pleasures of boating...[but it requires] special attention from the skipper. You can't see where you are, you can't see where you've been, and you can't see where you're going... There is a natural tendency... to want to use a search light or spotlight at night just as one would use headlights on a car. But...headlights would be of little use...because boating is three dimensional. Automobile drivers don't have to be concerned with what lies beneath their highways, but boaters must. Also, a spotlight shining on waves creates shadows and reflections that can look like fishing boats or debris... [T]he biggest reason we don't have headlights or use our searchlights for nighttime running is that we would temporarily blind other boaters...we're all handicapped...operating at night...we just don't see well in the dark..."

[B]asic principles of boating after dark:

- Slow down. You cannot judge distances at night easily...you'll need time to figure out what all the lights mean, that are moving at different speeds, directions and distances relative to your own boat.
- Arrange your interior lighting so that you are not blinded by your own illumination.
- Use your hearing to your best advantage. Sound carries across water...If your...stereo system is on full blast, you might miss important clues given by approaching vessels such as engine noise, horns, rushing water, sails flapping or even loud conversation."



### Safety Tips for All to Know

From the Dept. of Natural Resources, Michigan Dept. of Transportation, and Friendly Neighbors

**BOATERS** — Know & follow the rules of navigation

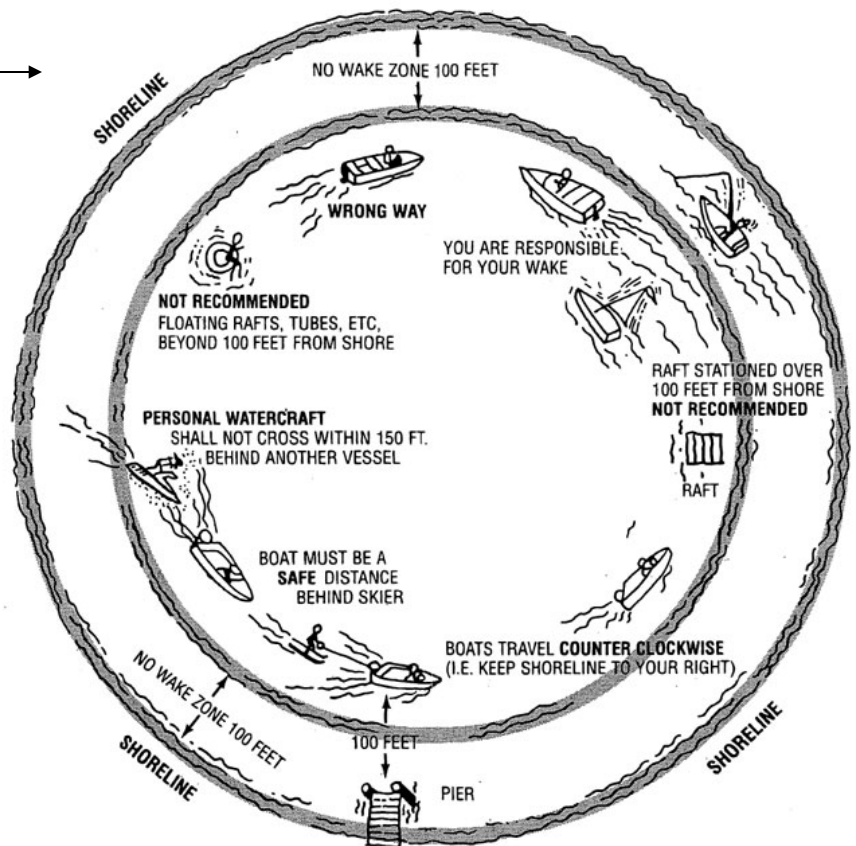
**PEDESTRIANS** — Walk/run on the side of the road as far to the left as possible *AGAINST* oncoming traffic, where there are no sidewalks.

**BICYCLISTS** — Always ride *WITH* other traffic.

**DRIVERS** — Leave at least 3 feet of space between your vehicle and a bicyclist when passing.

**PROPERTY TIPS** — Before leaving for the week:

- Take care with placing trash cans; they may get knocked over if too close to the road.
- Raise watercraft high and secure kayaks, water toys, umbrellas etc. to protect against high water/wind losses.



### Township

(cont'd from page 3)

for wind-driven energy development, but Crystal's lack of any zoning and wind ordinances creates 'wild west' vulnerabilities. The township will not hire outside specialists to draft an ordinance but may look at the Bloomer Township ordinance as a template. To be continued!

The Township Board approved a Covid-19 plan to keep the Community Center open for the general public in conformance with State and CDC guidelines.

**Hazardous Waste Collection**, Greenville Fair Grounds - May 15

**Spring Clean-Up Day**, near Crystal Fire Station - May 22

**Tire/Electronic Collection**, likely in Crystal - August TBD

### Help Prevent Invasive, Aquatic Hitch-hikers

Before leaving and before launching...  
**inspect everything!**

