



B, Kohn Photos

Crystal Lake Association

Summer 2023 Newsletter





B.Kohn Photos

Prominent Township Items

Tim Dorch

Crystal Park Renewal Project

Early planning goals anticipated that limited construction would begin in Spring, 2023, south of the pavilion so as not to interfere with customary summertime usage. Then at summer's end, construction would begin in earnest and carry forward to completion before Summer 2024. Other than tree removal, no other action has been taken. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which holds the 'purse strings' and otherwise controls when contracts can go out for bid, have not concluded their detailed project review. The Township Board believes that the first stage approvals will be authorized very soon. How this delay may or may not impact the general construction timeline is not knowable at this time.

Recycling

Crystal is on track for new and improved recycling! No, not curbside pickup! Montcalm County will underwrite most of the cost for converting our current bin system to state of the art compactors. The Township approved up to \$5000 in mandated supplemental support to help defray county costs for equipment, a concrete slab, upgraded 3 phase electric power, and potentially a security camera. The Township has been site searching, however,

3 phase electric is limited in Crystal. The Fire House area had been under site consideration until it was determined that 3 phase power was non-existent in that area and too expensive to engineer and install at that location. There is a strong likelihood that the existing Community Center campus area would be the most economical site choice at this time.

Missing \$1000

The 'hottest' Township issue gone public during the May/June 2023 timeframe has been the missing Township funds. Information and reaction has dribbled into the public domain beginning in May, and has been reported extensively in the Daily News. I defer to the Daily News and the John Daily contemporaneous recordings (YouTube and group sites on Facebook such as Crystal Lake Association, Crystal Comes Together, Crystal Township Michigan etc) of Township meetings if you wish to get into the weeds regarding this issue. The best information demonstrates that public funds went missing in February 2023, while in the custody of the Township Treasurer, who reported the loss contemporaneously. Best information also indicates that there is an open investigation in the hands of the Montcalm County Sheriff. He said/she said factual disputes about insurance reimbursement, lockboxes, safe storage, a forensic audit and the like are in the public domain and were first acknowledged publicly by the Township Supervisor in May 2023. By June 2023, one or more concerned citizens initiated the 'Recall' process against the Township Treasurer. If the required number of signatures are obtained, it will likely follow that the Crystal Township ballot in November 2023 will include the 'Recall' issue for voters to decide.



Township Supervisor

Within the context of the Crystal Township Board meeting on June 14, 2023, discussion concerning a Crystal Sewer budget item led to the disclosure that the Township Supervisor, in his capacity as a private citizen and farmer, rents about 100 acres of sewer district owned land, and has done so for the past twenty some years, predating his term of office formerly as Trustee and now as Supervisor. This raised questions about the potential for 'conflict of interest.' Without going into any detail about information which has emerged, and the potential to revisit the market price, it is otherwise unknowable at this point whether this issue will generate any more traction.

Open Water Rescue

On June 24th, Crystal Fire hosted an open water rescue program for its members as surrounding area first responders. The program included practical information and in lake exercises to enhance their ability to deal with open water emergencies. At a previous Township Board meeting, Chief Fitzpatrick noted that Crystal Fire are looking to acquire its own rescue watercraft to improve their ability to be water emergency responsive. At present, they have shared access to the Sheriff's Patrol boat moored at the Crystal Sailing Club. According to the Chief, they are looking at the potential for an 'Air-Boat' which would have some rescue efficacy during winter as well as open water.

Note that the Crystal Lake Association provides financial support for the Sheriff's Patrol program and watercraft, and are willing to donate to the Crystal FD to help support their program.

Community Center

The Township Board is in the process of revisiting two issues:

The first relates to the most recent \$100,000 roof repair which has exhibited random failures; the second concerns the potential for destruction of the oldest section (old school).

As best a can be determined at this point, the vendor for the failing roof repair has accepted responsibility and is in the process of remediation. On the destruction issue, Trustee Little has been researching today's costs. To be fair, this issue has been on and off the table in one way or another since 2018. Chronic roof leaks, unabated mold growth, windows in need of replacement all point toward the quickest and least expensive way out. Doing nothing is not an option.

ORV Rules Refresher

The Township sponsored an ORV rules refresher on June 1st in the hour before 'Music in the Park.' It was 'modestly' attended.

According to Trustee Daily, it was time well spent and information well exchanged for those who took advantage of this Township initiative. Unfortunately, the featured guest from the Montcalm County Sheriff's Office was diverted to other policing business prior to arrival. It was not clear whether the Township will do repeat performances. Golf carts and the issues they present for operators, traditional motor vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians have presented undercurrents of anxiety for all at one time or another. Further follow-up by our Township would be welcome and encouraged.

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)

Township Reporting in May and June, 2023, indicated that while ARPA monies were spent to enhance Crystal Fire, and to construct a pavilion at South Pier Park, etc., a substantial nest egg remains as 'insurance' to potentially cover costs for our Park Renewal Project. The balance was reported to be \$141,816. This balance must be spent by 12/21/2024.

Recently, the Township Board considered a request to complete the circumnavigation of the Crystal Sewer system with available ARPA funds. Following research and due diligence inquiries the Township declined to earmark monies for this purpose.

Police Coverage

In case you were still wondering, the Carson City Police Department interest in taking over the 'policing contract' for the Montcalm County Sheriff is off the table. Montcalm County Sheriff Mike Williams will continue to fulfill the existing coverage contract.

Wind & Solar Considerations - Not on Crystal Township radar.

Save The Dates

August 3, 2023

Household Hazardous Waste
in Carson City

August 10, 2023

Tire & Electronics
in Lakeview

August 26, 2023

Crystal Township Fall Clean-Up
8 – Noon at Noll Park (Firehouse)
The vendor was fully booked for September.



Making Progress on Membership Goal

Nancy Ayres, Membership co-chair

As we approach the July 4th holiday we are making progress towards achieving our membership goal of 415, but still have a ways to go. Typically memberships slow down after the July 4 holiday, but we would certainly encourage you to still join and help support the lake. Crystal Lake is a four season lake and the work of the CLA goes on year round.

The unseasonably hot and dry weather this year is making the lake shallow in some spots you wouldn't expect this early in the year, so please be careful while boating. The water is warming up nicely and since the lake has already been treated for invasive weed species, swimming should be good.

Every CLA a member can help us achieve our membership goal by talking with your neighbors around the lake if they do not have a 2023 CLA membership placard in their window. It's hard to believe, but not everyone around the lake is aware of the CLA and the important work that happens in support of a clean and safe lake.

It was brought to our attention that more and more homes or cottages on the lake are being sold to owners who are landlords and rent the places out. If you live by a place that is a rental unit you could help the CLA out by encouraging the owners to join. Not only would they support the lake, but the CLA Directory received upon membership could

provide helpful information to the renters about goods and services provided in the area.

Membership co-chair Carl Jonas and I would like to give a special shout out to South Shore Campground members who have joined the CLA in huge numbers over the past three years. Their participation has directly contributed to our membership growth. We would also like to recognize Crystal Lake Yacht Club owner, Jeremy Sheets, who again paid for memberships for all those who rent boat slips at the Yacht Club. That's great leadership in our community and we hope other will follow his example.

Thank you also to CLA Board Member Kent Roth who encouraged the CLA to join the July 4th parade two years ago. It's fun and helps promote the work of the CLA to the community. Also thank you to "Uncle Sam" aka Jim Ayres, who is now responsible for our water quality program as well as throwing candy to all the kids watching the parade.

Please remember that you don't need to be a property owner to join the CLA. You just need to be someone who enjoys the lake and wants to help support and protect it. Renters, campers, and day visitors to the lake are all welcome to join.

Thank you for your support and we hope you will encourage others to join.

Below are all the programs and activities that your membership supports:

- *July 4 fireworks show
- *Water treatment to keep the lake clean
- *Goose control program
- *Newsletters
- *Facebook page
- *Sheriff patrol on the lake for safety
- *Annual Directory of lake residents

Thank You Outgoing Board Members

Nancy Ayres

We would like to extend a sincere “thank you” to two long serving CLA Board Members who are not seeking re-election this year.

Joe Kopchick has been responsible for the Water Quality Program for the lake for several years. This is a huge responsibility since water quality for the lake is one of the most important items for the CLA. In addition to working with the organization that scans the lake to determine if it needs to be treated, Joe also worked with the organization that actually treated the lake. Joe also took water samples several times a year and turned them into the state for analysis as well as helping make sense of all the data that then came our way. Thank you Joe for being such a dil-

igent water quality person for the lake for many years.

Also leaving the board after many years is Tim Dorch. Tim has been the CLA Township person, attending all the monthly Township meetings and reporting back to the board items of interest and importance.

Tim has written extensive articles for our newsletters to help keep all CLA members up to date on Township news.

Thank you both for being such good stewards of the lake. We will miss working with you but know you are still in the community and supporting the work of the CLA.

CLA Welcomes New Board Members

Nancy Ayres and Roxy Eaton

We are pleased to welcome new Board member, Jim Ayres, who was elected to a three year term at the annual meeting in July. Jim and his wife, Nancy, (also a CLA Board member) have owned a cottage on Crystal Lake since 2004. When not enjoying time in Crystal, Jim and his wife live in Grand Rapids.

A graduate of both Grand Valley State University and Davenport University Jim has a degree in Biology

and also a Masters degree in Business Administration. He spent his entire career at Amway Corporation in a variety of positions, starting as a lab technician and then chemist before moving into management. He retired from Amway in 2020 and started a consulting company mainly focused on helping nonprofit

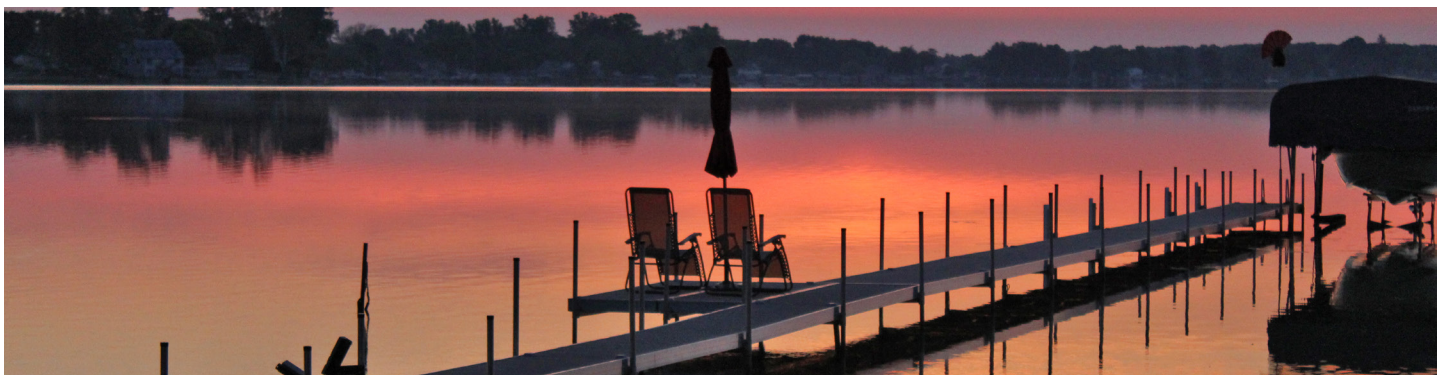


JIM AYRES

organizations in West Michigan. Jim also serves on a number of nonprofit Boards in West Michigan and also will begin teaching at the GVSU Seidman School of Business in the fall. Jim will be in charge of the water quality program for the CLA.

Jim enjoys golfing, fishing, pickle ball and cooking most anything on his grill, griddle or smoker. He also is a history lover and avid reader. He has served as Uncle Sam in the Crystal Fourth of July parade for the

past three years. He and Nancy have 2 children and 3 grandchildren and he enjoys spending time with them. With his science background, extensive nonprofit Board experience and love for Crystal Lake, we know Jim will be a great addition to the CLA Board.



New Board Members

Continued from Page 5

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Brad Wooten to the CLA board as he was elected at the annual meeting on July 8 for a three year term. Brad and his wife Kim have two kids, Andra and Derek, and they started spending summers at Crystal Lake in 1998. They originally came to Crystal Lake to inquire about a place to RV at South Shore Camp Ground, only to discover they really loved the lake life and decided stay a little while longer. Ten years later they were able to purchase some property and make Crystal Lake their permanent weekend getaway!! They are located right at the sharp double curve on Strait Tow. Yes... lots of upgrades in the works!!

A little work history; after college Brad was employed for many years at Midwest Microwave in Ann Arbor where they made components for the Department of Defense. It was very interesting work, but like many, woodworking is and always has been a great passion for Brad. So it was in 1999 that he left the day to day grind to start his own business. Wood Enterprises Inc. specialized in trim packages for custom homes, fireplace mantles and custom mill work.



BRAD WOOTEN

That type of work introduced him to many people and ultimately, an opportunity to help a friend start up Chelsea Plank Flooring in Chelsea MI. There they manufactured an array of pre-finished hardwood flooring. After almost 25 years at CPF it was time to choose a new path.

Luckily for all of us at Crystal Lake, Brad and Kim, along with their family are choosing to make Crystal their home. Brad stated that they

have met so many interesting people all along the shore line and have learned so much about the history of Crystal Lake and the great things to come. The CLA, as we all know it, is here to help make this lake enjoyable, safe and clean for everyone. Brad is looking forward to the future of Crystal Lake and how he can help the CLA and others, maintain the integrity of this lake life community. So if you see Brad around the lake, make sure to welcome him to the CLA board but also to becoming a year round resident. We all look forward to working with him in the future.

Board of Directors

President - Steve Meinhardt
e: steve@casair.net

Vice President - Nancy Ayres
e: nayres3801@gmail.com

Treasurer - Kim Morgan

Secretary - Roxy Eaton
e: roxy4msu@yahoo.com

Directors

Eric Johnson • Mike Manning
Carl Jones • Kent Roth
Jim Ayres • Brad Wooten

Why CLA Membership?

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

Membership is Easy:
Visit our website at crystalonline.org
or mail the form on the back page

Dues:
Only \$45.00 per year directly supports your Crystal Lake.



Water Quality - Spring 2023

Joe Kopchick

Crystal Lake was surveyed in May by Restorative Lake Sciences, and they identified 13.65 acres of Eurasian water milfoil. The amount was typical of what we have been experiencing for the past several years. We approved treatment by PLM which was completed on 5/31/2023. It's important that we keep after the milfoil because if it gets away from us, it could be very expensive to treat.

We spent \$1,900 with Restorative for this spring's survey and \$11,101 with PLM for treatment. We will have the lake surveyed again in September, and we may find another six or seven acres to treat. Altogether we have spent \$13,001 so far, and we'll spend \$1,900 for the September survey and an estimated \$6,000 for treatment for a total September cost of just under \$8,000. Our annual water quality cost will be about \$21,000 for the 2023 season. Water quality has become the highest cost item for Crystal Lake Association. Keep that in mind when you make your annual contributions.

This is my last water quality report as I am turning over my duties to Jim Ayres. Jim was a biology major in college and expressed interest last year in helping. Last summer, we did the chlorophyll samples and Secchi disc clarity reads together. This year Jim took the phosphorous samples early in the spring and has done the May and June chlorophyll samples and weekly Secchi disc readings. I'm leaving water

quality in good hands and am available if Jim has any questions.





Hope You Had A Fantastic Independence Day At Crystal Lake

Mike Manning

The weather was beautiful and the fireworks went off without a hitch, it was a great show.

Have you ever wondered what goes into the fireworks show? The number of barges, the amount of people, the fireworks before they get blown up, the amount of time that is invested?

This year through the hard work of a dedicated group, Kent Roth, Eric Johnson, Carl Jonas, Kevin Vaughn and myself there was another barge added to the fleet. We now have 5 barges to shoot the fireworks from and number FIVE was donated by Justin Palethorpe. I want to thank Justin for his donation! The newest barge had to be taken down to the bare framing, new decking put on, new bolts and fasteners and then configured with hitching and connections to match the other existing 4 that we currently use. The Pyro Technicians can arrange the racks of tubes (that actually contain and shoot the fireworks) further apart for the purpose of safety and a better show. It is the goal to possibly be able to add more fireworks next year and that is always work in progress.

The arrangement of the five barges is propelled by a single 4hp motor attached to the back barge.

On July 3rd, Stone's Marine Storage loads all the barges and transports them over to the old landing so they are ready for the next day. On the morning of the 4th, the old landing is blocked off, the barges get connected together into position. The fireworks crew approximately a dozen workers of Trident Pyro-technic Displays arrive, and arrange the racks of tubes

on the barges and secure them together. The actual fireworks charges are then loaded in the tubes and carefully wired. This process can take most of the day. Many hours are spent with assistance and oversight on the 4th by Kent Roth and myself to help ensure everything goes as planned.

About 8:45 pm, the sheriff provides an escort to us as we move the barges to approximately the center of the lake – at that time a 500 ft perimeter around the barges is maintained by the sheriff's patrols to make sure everyone keeps a safe distance. Once the amazing show is over and the "ALL CLEAR" call is made, anchors are pulled up and the return trip gets under way. Once back at shore everything is disassembled removed from the barges and loaded into trailers. On the morning of the 5th, the volunteers clean up to make sure the old pier is left in great condition. Brad Stone takes them back to storage until the following year. Thank you Brad for all you do for the association.

It is a lot of work but it is always so enjoyable that night and the next day when you read and hear from friends, neighbors and social media all the positive comments and feedback.

The fireworks are a success as they are funded by donations from all of you. THANK YOU! If you ever have any other comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to the CLA board.

Thank you for enjoying the show. Enjoy the rest of your summer.



Goose Maintenance Update - Summer 2023

Eric Johnson

I hope you are all having a wonderful, relatively Goose Free Summer. I know, I know, there are still geese on the lake, but far fewer than there might have been thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers who stalked over hill and dale searching out nests. Quite frankly, for my part, I would hate to see all the Geese gone. They are a beautiful and important part of our little piece of heaven.

As far as I can determine, Crystal has been working with the Michigan DNR to control the goose population for over 20 years. I am trying to put together a brief history of the effort, so if you have any information, it would be greatly appreciated.

We reported over 30 eggs in our hunts and those are not on the lake. Since we have not been able to use the "Goose Roundup" for the last 3 years due to "Avian Flu" we have had to rely solely on "Egg Maintenance". The problem is that the egg hunt occurs well before most of you are coming to the lake, so we have

to rely on our residents and a few hearty souls to carry out the canvasses.

There are ways you can help long distance however.



1. Be observant around your cottages and note any spots that you observe nesting potential. Geolocate or just mark it on a map and get the information to me. We will use this information next year.

2. Stop by the lake in early spring and take a walk around your area and note any evidence of nesting geese.

3. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

4. If you haven't already, join CLA (and encourage your neighbors to do the same).

5. Give us permission to canvas your property in your absence. (a letter, text or email sent to us is sufficient).

You can contact me at ejohnson@edzone.net.

Thank you for your help and enjoy your summer.

Egg Maintenance Permission Slip

I give the the "CLA, Goose Maintenance Team", licensed by Michigan DNR, authorization to enter my property for the purpose of finding and removing goose eggs during the dates authorized by the licensing authority.

Name: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

Signature _____

Mail To: Crystal Lake Association Goose Maintenance Program, 607 Sweet St, Crystal, MI 48818
or Email: ejohnson@edzone.net



Docking Lights Are Not Headlights

We have recently noticed boats on the lake with either no lights during the required times, or using their docking lights as headlights.

Contrary to popular belief, boats do not have headlights, as they interfere with others trying to see the actual navigation lights, and they really don't allow you to see any better. That is why they are labeled docking lights and should only be used for docking.

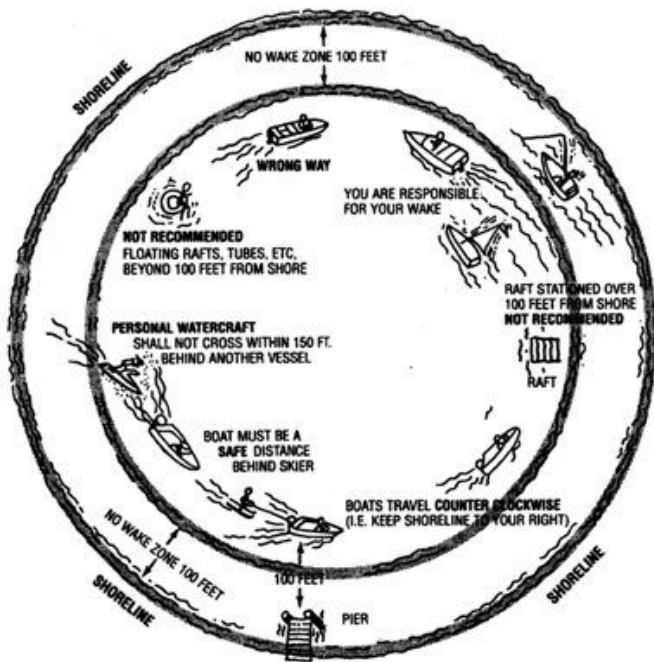
So here is your friendly PSA from the Michigan DNR Boating Laws.

Vessel operators must make sure that their vessels are equipped with the proper navigation lights and use the lights during these conditions.

- When away from the dock between sunset and sunrise
- During periods of restricted visibility such as fog or heavy rain

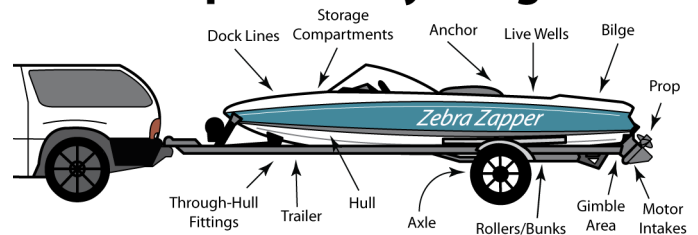
The required lights are:

- Red and green sidelights visible from a distance of at least one mile away
- An all-round white light or both a masthead light and a sternlight
- These lights must be visible from a distance of at least two miles
- The all-round white light (or the masthead light) must be higher than the sidelights.
- No other lights that may be mistaken for required navigation lights may be exhibited



Before Leaving & Before Launching...

Inspect Everything!



CLA Membership is Easy

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



Walking (and Jogging) Safety

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) @ www.michigan.gov/pedsafety provides tips for those of us out and about on foot around Crystal Lake. Whether high summer, or anytime, weather permitting, pedestrian challenges occur. Here are a few notable tips. These may seem obvious but they have reinforcement value and merit a moment to review. Any one of us could become a challenged pedestrian 'in the blink of an eye'.

- Walk on a sidewalk when available (not happening around Crystal much).

- If no sidewalk or path available, WALK ON THE SHOULDER FACING TRAFFIC (bicycles are expected to travel with the flow of traffic)

- STAY ALERT, don't be distracted by electronic devices or anything which may take your attention away from the road (texting while walking not advised).

- Never assume a driver can see you (never assume you're safe)

- Be visible day and night (this includes dog walkers who may be in the moment with plastic disposable bag(s) in conformity with universal good neighbor policy.

(Note that the parenthetical text was not a part of the original MDOT source material. The State did not address walking safety on the lake, frozen or thawed).



From The Office of the Montcalm County Sheriff

Off Road Vehicle Rules for Montcalm County



An ORV (off road vehicle) for the purpose of this ordinance includes motorized recreational vehicle or golf cart. This ordinance does not include snowmobiles, farm vehicles, motorcycles or a three wheeled vehicle.

- * You must have a valid drivers license, or over the age of 12, possessing a Michigan or comparable ORV safety certificate. Children under 16 years of age must be supervised by an adult.

- * You must have a current year Michigan ORV sticker attached to the off road vehicle, regardless of your residency in Michigan. An ORV sticker can be purchased anywhere hunting licenses are sold.

- * Helmets are required for ORV's without a roof or roll bar that meets US Department of Transportation safety standards. Safety belt usage is required.

- * Operate your off road vehicle as far to the right of the road as possible at a speed not to exceed 25 m.p.h., with the flow of traffic, single file.

- * ORV cannot be operated on a state trunk line road. If these roadways need to be crossed, they should be safely crossed by operating perpendicular to the roadway. Examples of state trunk lines in Montcalm County are M-46, M-57, M-66 and M-91. ORV's are not allowed on US 131 for any reason.

Complete county of Montcalm ORV ordinance is available at:

<https://www.montcalm.us/DocumentCenter/View/1487/Off-Road-Vehicles-ORV-Ordinance-PDF>

Check with your local township or village office for additional restrictions and/or enhancements,

The office of the Sheriff asks you to please ensure safety and compliance when operating off road vehicles. These guidelines are in place to make your recreational experience as enjoyable as possible.

MONTCALM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PROPERTY INSPECTION REQUEST

NAME : _____ PHONE: (____) _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

DESCRIPTION OF HOUSE: _____

ALL BUILDINGS LOCKED? _____ ANY UTILITIES ON? _____

CONTACT PERSON: _____
NAME, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER OF SOMEONE NEARBY WE CAN CONTACT IN CASE OF A PROBLEM

WHERE CAN YOU BE CONTACTED WHILE AWAY? _____

PHONE: (____) _____

LEAVE DATE: _____ RETURN DATE: _____

OTHER NOTES: _____

Property Inspection Report

The Montcalm County Sheriff's official website continues to offer a Property Inspection check program. The Sheriff's Office has forms available for interested property owners (shown above).

You may request a vacation house check by downloading the 2-page form at this web address: http://www.montcalm.us/document_center/Sheriff/property%20inspection%202017.pdf

Fill it out and either print/mail it to the Sheriff's Office; or if you wish, scan/email it to mcsherff@montcalm.us.

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



CLA Membership Application and Donation Form

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing City, State & Zip: _____

Crystal Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ Contact Email: _____

Check here if you would like future correspondence via email:

We now accept PayPal, Credit Cards or ACH

Pay to:

Crystal Lake Association

Mail To:

Crystal Lake Association

P.O. Box 307

Crystal, MI 48818

2023 Annual Dues (\$45.00) _____

Fireworks Donation _____

Water Quality Fund _____

Legal Defense Fund _____

Total _____

Renew online at <http://www.crystalonline.org/renewonline.htm>