



## Crystal Lake Township Newsletter Summer 2022

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#231-352-9791 and [www.crystallaketwp.org](http://www.crystallaketwp.org)

**Access to Broadband:** Access to broadband is a problem in our area. We are currently working with Benzie County and other municipalities to explore whether we can use the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funds, a part of the American Rescue Plan, to expand broadband service to our constituents. The board has currently pledged these monies, just over \$100K, should the county leadership see a viable path to accomplish a good plan for broadband expansion. However, if this effort fails, we communicate further what options we have for these funds, and ask for your input.

**Affordable Connectivity Program:** Being able to afford broadband is another problem. ACP is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) benefit program that helps ensure that eligible low-income households can afford the broadband –if they indeed have access to broadband— that they need for work, school, healthcare and more. It provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service (up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands) plus a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. Do you qualify? How do you sign up? What are the details? Go to [ACPbenefit.org](http://ACPbenefit.org) for all information on eligibility, applications, and steps to take.



**Cemeteries:** Here's a friendly reminder, that there are no artificial decorations allowed in the cemetery. This means *especially no plastic*; however, organic flowers in *non-plastic pots* are fine. If you have questions about what and where pots are allowed with respect to a gravestone, please contact the Supervisor. An extensive ordinance and more information is available online. Note that all non-conforming items and planting will be subject to removal.

On a different note, we bid a farewell to a patron of the former Norwegian/Scandinavian/Lutheran Cemetery, Bev (Nelson) Augustine, a Frankfort native, who died this February at age 99. It was relayed that she was “dressing” her window clothing displays in her Colorado women’s apparel shop only days before she passed. Years ago, she gifted an endowment for the sole purpose of fulfilling upkeep and special projects at East Cemetery. Thank you, Bev. Your generosity lives on.

**Clean Up Days:** The first Clean Up Day already took place the first week in May, and one is planned for Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 8-11 AM in the parking lot of the Frankfort Dow Airport on Airport Road. The point person is Brian Halliday, reachable via the township hall phone number. Also, see our website for a list of do’s/don’ts, or pick up a copy of instructions at the township hall. For important recycling days sponsored by the county, they are June 18 at Frankfort High School; July 16 in Thompsonville TIRES ONLY; and August 27 at Road Commission in Honor. For complete instructions including how to make an appointment to appear, go to [benzieco.net](http://benzieco.net), or communicate with Coordinator Jesse Zylstra by calling 882-0554 or emailing [benzierecycler@benzieco.net](mailto:benzierecycler@benzieco.net).



**Elections:** Mark your calendars for AUGUST 2<sup>nd</sup> and NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Note that redistricting will affect Crystal Lake Township voters. Watch for new voter ID cards to be mailed to each registered voter showing that we are now part of the 104<sup>th</sup> District for the Michigan House of Representatives. Current Representative Jack O’Malley will be part of the 103<sup>rd</sup> District, which will cover more northern voting districts. There will be new people from new jurisdictions running in the August 2, 2022 primary. Go to [michigan.gov/sos/elections](http://michigan.gov/sos/elections) for more information. Absentee voting reminder: If you want to vote absentee for the August or November elections, you will need to first request an application from the Clerk’s office at 231-352-9791 or [clerk.clt@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.clt@gmail.com) or go to [Michigan.gov/VOTE](http://Michigan.gov/VOTE).



**Fireworks:** With safety utmost in mind, and reduction in pollution (both noise and residual debris) running a close second, a joint committee met in '21-22 for the purpose of coordinating an approach to fireworks regulation in our immediate area. The ultimate goal is to have a uniform Fireworks Regulation Ordinance adopted by at least the following: the townships of Benzonia, Crystal Lake, Gilmore and Lake, the villages of Benzonia, Beulah and Elberta, and the City of Frankfort. This way, as many county residents as possible are reading from the same playbook. This is a work-in-progress. See

our website for the CLT policy as it regulates consumer grade fireworks but here's a short recap as it concerns the CL township's residents and visitors: A) only within the allowed hours on the allowed 12 (or 13, depending) days of the year, B) never on any public property, including public beaches and their accesses, streets and sidewalks, and C) never when there is a "burn ban" in effect. There are other common-sense safety and humane considerations, as well, and we hope all persons will volunteer to utilize them to protect all involved: ignitors, observers, neighbors, pets, wildlife and the environment. Violators could be fined up to \$1000. Educate yourselves/guests/renters about this important policy or call with questions.

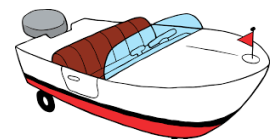
**Ironman 70.3:** The popular athletic bike/swim/run competition being held in our untapped resort town will be returning to the area for the race date of September 11, 2022 and, per the CLT Board's approval, runners will be hoofing it through our township once again. This year, the route is changed from Grace Road to River Road. Google "Ironman Michigan" or [www.ironman.com/im703-michigan](http://www.ironman.com/im703-michigan) for details.

**Short Term Rentals:** Both the state and local government's approach to STR's regulation is in a state of flux. If you are interested in this topic but missed our previous information in the Winter 2021-22 newsletter, know that all our past newsletters can be referenced online, available on our website. You can also check out our website for updates. We want to emphasize that the new and modern wave of rentals in our area is a fairly new phenomenon, and that dealing with the new and modern problems that accompany that wave is, indeed, on an on-going process. We welcome your feedback on this.

**Roads:** A brine was applied to some of our un-paved roads to keep the dust down, specifically Maple Arch, Marquette Court, Cox Road and Esplande.\* Instead of the former 26% calcium chloride, this year the Benzie County Road Commission is using a thicker 38% blend and will be monitoring its effectiveness; we hope to avoid the need for a second application. [\* Residents on other township gravel roads wishing to be included in the brining program should contact the township to be added to the list.] Area roads or portions thereof to be paved? Michigan Ave, Lobb Road, M-22 from Frankfort to Pilgrim.

**Taxes and Property Assessment:** All sorts of pertinent information is available on our website under "treasurer". Utilizing BS&A software, information is divided into two main categories, that of property assessment and that of tax billing/payment. Under the former, find anything from the owner name and official parcel number to the legal description of the property and the building(s), plus much more. Under the latter, look up your tax payment history including the date the township received your payments for the last decade or so. There also are options to pay online, or you could download yourself a tax payment receipt. Check out the wealth of information that is at your fingertips.

**Waterfront and Zoning:** Time to put in your docks and boats? Remember, only one dock and two hoists are allowed per each 50 feet of water frontage. Doing some yard clean up? Just a reminder that within 35 feet of the lake there is a buffer zone in which no vegetation can be removed without a permit. If you are concerned about beach erosion, you need a permit from EGLE and the Township to add sand, stones or rip-wrap at the water's edge. Also, there are natural ways to prevent erosion that benefit local wildlife and water quality. Contact the Zoning Admin for more information.



**Volunteerism/Paid Participation in Township Government:** There are many ways you can assist your community and support your local democracy through either paid or volunteer jobs at the township. First and foremost, we need election workers. If interested, contact the clerk after checking out [www.michigan.gov/sos/Resources/Initiatives/democracy-mvp](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/Resources/Initiatives/democracy-mvp). In the cemetery, we'd love to see some history-minded folks work on projects there. We also need an alternate for Board of Review (the citizen's panel that hears protests to property assessments). Last but not least, we would also simply like to see you at our meetings or hear from you, be it suggestion, praise or complaint. Please call the township for more details.