

# A Quarter's Worth of news

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## What's so special about Crystal Lake Park?

**Mature trees, dogs, sweet neighbors, green space, a feeling of safety, eclectic home styles, water in the basement, easy civic involvement, a secret place, Ladue Schools?**

After 18 years in Brentwood we were clued in by a good friend and drove out to Crystal Lake Park around 3 pm one afternoon. We watched a wonderful social event as a large group of parents gathered to meet their kids at the bus after school, backpacks, little siblings, large musical instruments and dogs in tow, everyone together.

We noticed the **Boland** Bridge, the community bulletin board, interesting yard art, young and old people walking their dogs and a broad variety of architectural styles. We were hooked.

For about a year I felt a little like a pioneering old farmer carefully planning to hitch up horse and wagon for the long ride into town. We met our neighbors and in no time we were completely at home. CLP feels somehow separate, removed from regular suburban places and that contributes to its allure.

It has been interesting to note three distinct reactions when we tell people where

we live.

Some folks say "Oh I love that place! They had a pool and clubhouse there, right? I swam there all the time as a kid".

Some say "Oh I think that's where my massage therapist, teacher, physician, real estate agent or architect lives. That's a cool place, what's it called again?"

Most people haven't heard of it so when we explain where and what it is they can't imagine a town back here at all.

Some of our current residents have been here since before the pool days back to the days of the dam and Crystal Spring Lake itself. Some remember **gangsters, a brothel and a speakeasy**. Every street has individual character, roots and history.

If we could bottle the essential blend that makes Crystal Lake Park what it is we'd find a ready market with community planning types and developers trying to create places that feel like home.

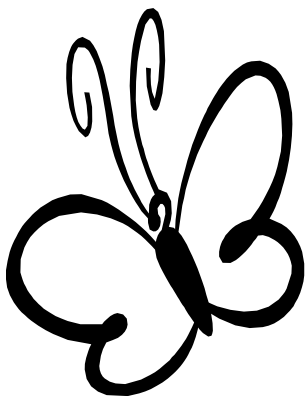
This cul-de-sac town is a treasure indeed. What's so special about it to you? Now is a great time to be considering that very question. Let's consider it together in Architectural Review or Board of Alderman meetings.

## EXTRA SPECIAL

For many years **Sue Rosga** ran the Neighborhood Action Committee which organized Santa Claus visits, the Spring Egg Hunt, Flower Day, parades and the city picnic. Sue, our special thanks for your kindness and perseverance.

Almost single-handedly, **Stefan Cooke** made the dream of replacing the streets a reality. He gave unending hours doing research, talking to experts, taking guff and becoming an expert himself. Thank you Stefan for your doggedness.

If there is a high school or college student in need of a little research project I have a question to investigate: What is the rate of civic involvement in our town of 220 households? I'll bet that more than 15% of our households have someone that is currently or has in the past been involved in Crystal Lake Park committees or activities of one kind or another. What city can boast a 15% rate of participation?



## Narrow streets, broad minds!

There have been quite a few discussions lately at city meetings regarding school busses, ambulances, fire trucks and trash trucks getting stuck on our streets. These vehicles are having difficulty due to the narrow streets, cars parked on the streets and particularly new home construction.

We would like to encourage people to park in their driveways as much as possible and especially during the night. Also to be aware of where visitors

park - parking too close to a corner creates a roadblock for larger vehicles to make turns on narrow streets.



Construction crews have been notified of the problem and Frontenac police have been active in helping to keep the crews from blocking the streets dur-

ing the times that the elementary bus comes through (8:10-8:40 AM and 4:00-4:30PM). If you notice construction crews blocking the streets during these times please give the Frontenac police a call at 994-9300.

Thank you,

**Martin Long**, Board of Adjustment member

## We say thank you to Karen Coon, City Clerk for 14 years

After many years as the stalwart Clerk for the City Karen Coon is moving on to greener pastures. The Clerk has an important job. Elected officials come and go at the whim of the electorate but City Clerk is a salaried position. Karen has been here through thick and thick!

Karen wrote a hundred thousand meeting minutes, paid a thousand

city bills, and answered a million city phone calls. Karen answered calls of complaint for everything from a barking dog to street issues, to various attempts at gossip to the color choice of a neighbor's house paint color. She knows what's going on.

The Clerk is the glue that holds the rest of the City processes together.

The Clerk is the central disseminator of information, forms, advice and knowledge of the City. Karen will be sorely missed.

If you are interested in this position which will keep you busy about 20+ hours a month, call Mayor Matt Balcer at 567-3508. Skills required: thorough attention to detail, reliability, good customer service.

## Election, yard waste pickup, development, extra money for the city

Please watch the board for details on the ELECTION coming up during the first week of April.

Yard waste will begin again the first Monday in April.

***Now is the time to come to the Architectural Review Board meetings. Ordinances that will effect development in the City for the next twenty-five years are being made now. Throw in your 2 bits or hold your peace for a quarter of a century! Meetings on the first Thursday of every month at Frontenac City Hall at 7:00 pm.***

When paying sales tax on a car, specify Crystal Lake Park as your home city. The tax rate is lower for you and the city gets a little ***chunk of the action!***

## A Year's Worth of Fun and Celebration

*CLP Community Activities* (formerly, Neighborhood Action Committee) is back in business!!!! We have a group of really committed folks who have put together a year's worth of activities for families, children, and even some adult fun.

These social activities really help build community and make us even more proud to live in Crystal Lake Park! Come on out, meet your neighbors, have some fun, and perhaps volunteer to help at any or all of these events! We welcome any new ideas as well; there is always time for fun, right??? Well make time!

### The Calendar for a year of AWESOME activities in our little town...

**April 15, *Spring Egg Hunt*** At the park, CLP children of all ages will hunt for spring eggs, filled with goodies! Refreshments for all included! If you have any questions, or want to help out, call the chair of this event; **Kelly Long**.

**May 6; *Flower Day and CLP Beautification*** We'll meet at the park at 10:00 a.m. to plant flowers to beautify our community, and then take a free pack of annuals home for your own garden! This is a great family activity! Questions, ideas, or wish to help? Call **Kelly Larson** 692-0824.

*Home and/or Garden Tour* in **June** (date to be announced) Enjoy a complete walking tour of many of CLP unique homes and beautiful gardens! What a wonderful way to show off the love and care people here have put into their homes. Each home will provide a lovely tour and perhaps share a bit of the history of CLP. We hope this promises to be the first annual walking tour! Stay tuned for more information about this, and we may end with a reception in the park! To add your house and/or garden to this tour, or to volunteer some of your time toward planning, please call **Kelly Larson**, or **Susan Kusama**.

**July 1; Independence Day *Barkus and Bike Parade*** An old favorite here in CLP, but this year we have added Dogs to the mix! Dress up your dog, and/or your bike and parade through our little town! This will really be fun, as there are so many adorable **dogs** in this community! Fun for the family, and we will end at the park for refreshments. Any questions, or to volunteer to help out, call **Sue Glarner**.

**September 17; *Picnic in the Park*** Another CLP favorite! Families will gather at the park for a chicken dinner! CLP will provide the tasty chicken, while we all bring a side or dessert. There will be games for the kids, and maybe entertainment as well! Stay tuned!! For more info. Or to help out, please call **Julie Licavoli**.

**October 14; Square Dance** in the new street It's swing your partner time at CLP! This is (hopefully) going to be an annual party and promises to be a rip roarin' good time! This is an adults only activity (hey we gotta have some fun too!). We will have a square dance caller that will help us all learn the dances. BYOB and an appetizer to share. For questions please call **Kelly Long**, and she will need A LOT of help with this event!

**October 28; Halloween Parade** Dress up yourself and the kids to parade through our little town! The fun will begin and end at the park, with refreshments provided. Call **Kelly Long** with questions or to help out.

**December 10; Santa Claus** is coming to town! This is not a CLP funded event, so parents, make sure to call and reserve your visit by Santa. Santa will pay a special visit to your home (and brings a gift of course!) The kids LOVE this, so make your reservations early! Call **Julie Licavoli** to place your reservation.

So there you have it! Your social calendar has just filled up a bit more, and you get to know your neighbors a bit more! A pretty good deal Heh??? Stay also be postings throughout CLP. Also, for all you will need to know to partici-



ated for times to all events. There will stop by to look at the CLP bulletin board pate and have a good time!

## Notes from the Police Blotter of the Crystal Lake Park Chief of Police

I'm here for you folks!

It was not a difficult decision when asked to serve as Police Chief for our community of Crystal Lake Park. After all, I live here. What better way to serve and work for the community my family and I have called home for the past ten years?

In this issue, I would like to remind citizens of our ordinances and of the “crimes” being committed everyday by not complying with them.

### Speed Limit

First and foremost, the speed limit on every CLP street is 20 MPH.

### Stop Signs

Stop signs are a regulatory sign that's used when traffic is required to stop. Please heed all stop signs as the burden of safety rests with all of us.

### Parking

Trucks may not be parked overnight on any street.

### Trash/Recycling

Trash/Recycling containers may not be put out earlier than 5:00PM the evening before pickup.

### Signs

One standard “For Sale” sign is permitted on property for sale. One “Open House” sign is allowed on said property during hours it is available for inspection. Signs for other purposes require a permit – available from the City Clerk.

### Animals

Leash law is enforced. Dogs must be fenced or leashed at all times.

Pooper – Scooper law is also enforced.

### Construction

A Building Permit must be obtained from the Building Commissioner prior to start of any construction, installation or remodeling.

For detailed and better understanding of our ordinances, please consult the inside pages of CLP City Directory, the building commissioner, Robb Lappe and the city website: [www.crystallakepark.org](http://www.crystallakepark.org).

I look forward to working with each and every one of you to help CLP maintain its charm and “hominess.” After all, you live here too.

Thank you

*Steve Sood, Chief*



### The following incidents were recently reported:

1. Three residential mailboxes on Putter Lane were reported damaged.
2. A homeowner's dog on Spring Drive was reported “loose” and running onto other neighbor's property.

## Jim Gehringer, Alderman Ward II

Housing development in Crystal Lake Park continues and so does the work of the Planning and Zoning Committee and the Board of Adjustment. For the first time in recent memory these groups have a full compliment of members! They are discussing the impact of new development and how the city's ordinances should support development, keeping in mind our city's long term objectives. This special group of citizen volunteers is truly devoted to a philosophy of equity and direction. How does a city balance progress with maintaining it's unique character? Attend meetings on the first Thursday of each month at the Des Peres City Hall at 7:00 pm and help figure it out!

MEMBERS:

City Building Commissioner: **Robb Lappe**

Planning and Zoning Committee: **David Evans, Rita Brinkman, Paul Licavoli, Amy Cislo, Matthew Balcer, Jim Gehringer**

Board of Adjustment: **Sue Glarner, Barry Larson, Mary Jane Cusumano, Mary Ann Stewart, Martin Long**

I want to acknowledge and thank this group for their dedication and personal time given to our city's future.

**Jim Gehringer**, Alderman

### A message from Bonnie Taylor

Dear Fellow Crystal Lake Residents,

My name is **Bonnie Taylor**. I live at 2158 Oak Drive with my partner Lydia Ruffin and am seeking public office for the first time. I am running for alderman of Ward I, a position that was previously held by our neighbor, **Stefan Cooke**. Some of you I know well as your friend and neighbor, some of you recognize me as the walking companion of our dogs, **Pearlie and Pozzo**, and some of you I have yet to have the pleasure of meeting. I would like to share with you some of my history in Crystal Lake Park and what has motivated me to serve our community at this time.

In 1989 my sons, **Nick and Jack**, and I moved into Crystal Lake Park. I chose this community because of the combination of affordable housing, safe neighborhood, and excellent school district. I also wanted to move here because of the city's charm. It conveyed a sense of community and appeared to have a unique physical character. I have come to value the canopy of oaks (albeit threatening at times), our shared space in the park, and houses that are in close proximity to the streets, a feature that works to keep us connected to each other. We greet each other carrying in groceries or rolling out the trash for pick up. We know our dogs' names before each others' and watch out for our kids getting on or off the yellow bus. We blow each other's leaves in a gesture of kindness, and some of us even allow our neighbors to see us in our pajamas as we pick up the newspaper ahead of dawn. In the summer we have had the annual picnic potluck, an event that is followed by other seasonal events such as the Halloween parade, Santa's visits, caroling, the Easter egg hunt, flower sale, Fourth of July parade—all signs that demonstrate we are interested in sharing our lives with each other. It seems to me that, as a community, we care about connection and we care about how the neighborhood looks and operates. We wish to both preserve and develop the character that is uniquely Crystal Lake.

I am choosing to seek election now, because I have just finished my doctoral program at Washington University and now have some time to contribute serving the common good. I teach at the university level, most recently at Washington University and Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and I have served on arts organization boards as well as my church's governing body.

I would like to accomplish two things during my tenure as alderperson: building community and helping it negotiate change with sensitivity. We have experienced growing pains beginning with the fence that demarcates the Willows and Crystal Lake Park and moving on to street renovation and new signage. We survived MSD and continue the activity with tear-downs and build-ups. What I do not want us to lose sight of is the need to be courteous in the midst of change, realizing that new must co-exist with older. We reflect this in how we revise and abide by ordinances. I am interested in providing the best services, conservatively and responsibly. Finally, I am interested in furthering the aims of transparency in government and maintaining the public trust. I will be grateful for your vote in April.

Your neighbor, **Bonnie Taylor**

www.crystallakepark.org

CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE PARK, MISSOURI

THIS IS YOUR NEWS, THIS IS YOUR TOWN. If you are new to the neighborhood, call Jim Gehringer for your copy of the City Directory, 314-997-4721



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Mailing Label Corrections:: If the address label on this mailing is in error or you need to update family information in our city directory, please contact **Jim Gehringer** at 314-997-4721 or [jgehri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jgehri@sbcglobal.net). Thanks for your help in keeping our City Directory up to date.

