

2026 STATE OF THE COMMUNITY



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DRIVING GROWTH & DELIVERING VALUE: THE CHAMBER'S PATH FORWARD

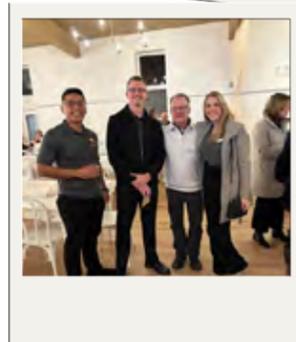
The year ahead isn't just another chapter; it's an opportunity to elevate the Crystal Lake business community to new heights.

At the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce, we aren't just optimistic, we are driven. Our mission remains clear: to serve as your most dedicated partner and to provide the tangible, high-impact value that helps your business thrive.

We are entering this year with renewed energy and a suite of initiatives designed to tackle your biggest challenges head-on:

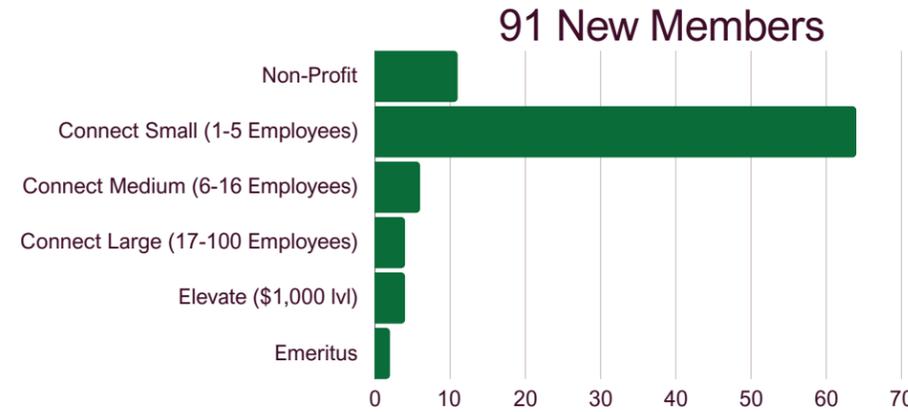
- **Expanded Visibility:** We're amplifying your reach across multiple platforms to ensure your business remains front and center.
- **Workforce & Engagement:** From strengthening workforce connections to fostering purposeful networking, we're building the bridges you need to grow.
- **New Small Business Healthcare:** We are thrilled to introduce a new healthcare options program, specifically designed to provide our small business members with relief and solutions for one of today's most pressing hurdles.
- **The Reimagined Leaders in Action:** Get ready for a fresh take on our premier educational event, packed with the practical insights and modern resources you need to lead in an evolving landscape.

The heart of Crystal Lake beats within its local businesses. Whether you are a long-standing institution or a new startup, we are here to ensure your success is sustainable and your impact is felt.

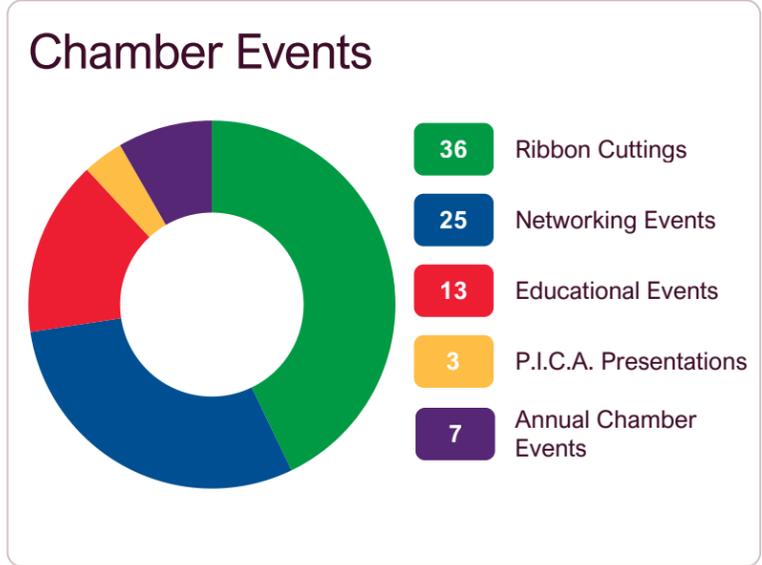


20 25

Chamber Snapshot: Membership, Events, & Reach



Membership Retention Rate
80%



Upcoming Events

APR 18 COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY	MAY 7 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER	JUNE 1 ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
JULY 5 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE	FALL 2026 LEADERS IN ACTION	OCTOBER 17 CRYSTAL LAKE COMMUNITY EXPO

Website Hits
254,000

Social Media Impressions
1.02 Million

Social Media Reach
425,000

Social Media Engagements
46K

Social Media Followers
9.5K



STATE OF THE COMMUNITY

Highlights

- ✓ Value for the Community
- ✓ Business Growth
- ✓ Community Investment
- ✓ Featured Capital Improvement Projects
- ✓ Public Safety
- ✓ Elected Officials and City Staff

CRYSTAL LAKE

- Population**
41,513
- Owner-Occupied Homes**
 76.43%
- Median Household Income**
\$126,966
- Retail Sales Market**
 \$1.5 B
- Bachelor, Graduate, or Professional Degree**
49.31%
- Unemployment**
 3.6%
- Total Businesses**
2,079
- Total Employees**
 23,360

Value for the Community

The City of Crystal Lake continues to be a major economic engine in Northeastern Illinois. The City offers residents and businesses high-quality services at one of the lowest municipal tax rates in the area.

Stable Economic Environment

The City enjoys a stable economic environment through strong financial stewardship and long-term planning. The City's budget maintains a healthy fund balance while supporting high quality services for the community. The largest single source of City revenue continues to be the sales tax, which reflects positive economic trends and continued attraction of new retail and restaurants. Growing sales tax revenue allows the City to mitigate property taxes.

Great Service at a Low Price

The Crystal Lake City Council approved the 2025 Property Tax Levy with a tax rate decrease of five percent. The approved 2025 tax levy will supplement funding for the Fire Rescue Department and required pension obligations. The property tax also supports the Crystal Lake Library. When comparing surrounding communities that provide like services, Crystal Lake's property tax bill is among the lowest. Since 1997, the City has not levied a property tax for the General Fund (Police, Public Works, Community Development, Administration).

In 2025, the City added significant new property construction to the tax rolls, further reducing the overall impact of property taxes to existing property owners.

The City's total estimated EAV increased nine percent, from tax year 2024, to \$1.8 billion. The below graph shows the expected \$13.8 million increase from new development to the City's Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) in 2025.



Business Growth

New businesses that opened in 2025, or will be opening soon. These businesses either joined Crystal Lake, expanded, or changed location within City limits.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Lake Roots Cafe Market & Bar
475 W. Virginia Street | European Sports
1275 N. Randall Road, Unit 102 |
| Daiso
5548 Northwest Highway | The Ellery
406 W. Woodstock Street |
| Michaels
5540 Northwest Highway | Tacos & Tequila Bar
540 E. Terra Cotta Avenue, Unit L |
| Cilantro Taco Grill
1145 S. Illinois Route 31 | 2 Hours of Freedom
6250 Northwest Highway |

Coming Soon

- | | |
|--|--|
| Poke West
5150 Northwest Highway | First Watch
5869 Northwest Highway, Unit A |
| Starbucks
1341 Randall Road | BBQ King
570 Waters Edge Boulevard, Unit B |
| Florio's Italian
1540 Carlemont Drive | Menchie's
570 Waters Edge Boulevard, Unit D |
| Black Market Bakery
86 N. Williams Street | CAVA
5689 Northwest Highway |
| Friendly Designs
30 N. Williams Street, Unit G | 7Brew
6280 Northwest Highway |
| Curated by Laney Boutique
30 N. Williams Street, Unit G | |



CRYSTAL LAKE

www.clearlycrystallake.com

www.facebook.com/clearlycrystallake

www.instagram.com/clearlycrystallake/

Investment in Business

\$683,104

IN CITY BUSINESS FACADE GRANTS (2010 - PRESENT)



\$5,875,701

IN CITY HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUNDING AWARDED TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS (2002 - PRESENT)

\$4,711,061

IN CITY SALES TAX SHARING AGREEMENTS



2025 Business Development

338,133

SQ FT OF NEW COMMERCIAL OCCUPANCIES

371

NEW JOBS CREATED

52

NEW SMALL BUSINESSES (<20 EMPLOYEES)

Community Investment

Water's Edge

Water's Edge, Crystal Lake's newest and largest redevelopment project is currently underway. This mixed-use development will offer new commercial establishments in 2026 and beyond. The new development is being led by Heartland Real Estate Partners and will bridge the natural beauty of Three Oaks Recreation Area with the vibrancy of the Northwest Highway key commercial corridor.



Downtown Gathering Spaces

Depot Park will come to life in 2026. The enhancements create a place for residents and visitors to enjoy the businesses and beauty of Downtown Crystal Lake. The park will include a versatile stage, raised seating, fountain, benches and native plantings.

Additional seating and future public art will also be added to the Plaza at Gates and Main Streets in 2026 to extend the Downtown streetscape.



Plaza at Gates and Main Street



Depot Park

For additional information about the City of Crystal Lake's Downtown enhancements, please visit <https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/community-development/downtown-enhancement>.

Featured Capital Projects



Three Oaks Recreation Area Lake Loop Trail (Open Spring 2026)

- Deep Well 19 Well House Project
- Three Oaks Road/Lutter Drive/Sands Road
- Three Oaks Recreation Area Water Level Control Project
- Oak Street/IL Route 176 Intersection Improvement
- Pingree Road/Grandview Drive Pedestrian Enhancements
- Roundabout Art (Congress Pkwy/Exchange Dr.)
- Water's Edge Art Panels
- Public Art Benches

Three Oaks Road/Lutter Drive/Sands Road Improvements (Complete Spring 2026)



Public Art Benches



Restoring Natural Flow of Crystal Creek (2026-2027)

For additional information about the City of Crystal Lake's ongoing capital projects, please visit <https://www.crystallake.org/our-community/construction-projects>.

Elected Officials and Administration

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor
Councilmember
Councilmember
Councilmember
Councilmember
Councilmember

Haig Haleblian
Ellen Brady
Brett Hopkins
Cameron Hubbard
Ian Philpot
Denise Smith
Natasha Teetsov

City Manager
Deputy City Manager
Director of Finance
Director of Community Development
Director of Human Resources
Director of Public Works & Engineering
Chief of Police
Chief of Fire Rescue
Director of Information Technology

Eric Helm
Nick Hammonds
Jodie Hartman
Kathryn Cowlin
Julie Meyer
Michael Magnuson
James Black
Craig Snyder
Daniel Davis

Online City Services

Over the last few years, the City has experienced significant growth. In addition to investments in infrastructure and utilities, we are streamlining our municipal processes and enhancing services, including the implementation of online applications so residents can complete many City services in the comfort of their own home.

These investments will not only improve the quality of life but make the community more accessible and attractive to developers and employers.

EzAPP, the City's 24/7 online portal, is convenient for residents, increases transparency, and reduces the amount of paper waste. The online portal provides access to building permits, fire permits, development applications, property maintenance information, and soon liquor and other licensing.



Connect with us at www.crystallake.org or through:



CITY OF
Crystal Lake ILLINOIS

100 W. Woodstock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
(815) 459-2020
Hours: 8AM - 5PM M-F

CONTACT US:

Economic Development Manager(815) 356-3737
City Manager's Office(815) 459-2020, Option 5
Community Development Department(815) 356-3605
Finance Department(815) 459-2020, Option 0
Public Works Department(815) 356-3614
Fire Department (non-emergency)(815) 356-3640
Police Department (non-emergency)(815) 356-3620

Public Safety



The Police Department responded to 24,543 calls for service in 2025.



The Fire Rescue Department responded to 7,862 calls for service in 2025.

2025 Highlights

- RedTail Golf Club
- Parks & Open Spaces
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Public Safety
- Community Events
- Village Information

State of the Community

Village of Lakewood, IL

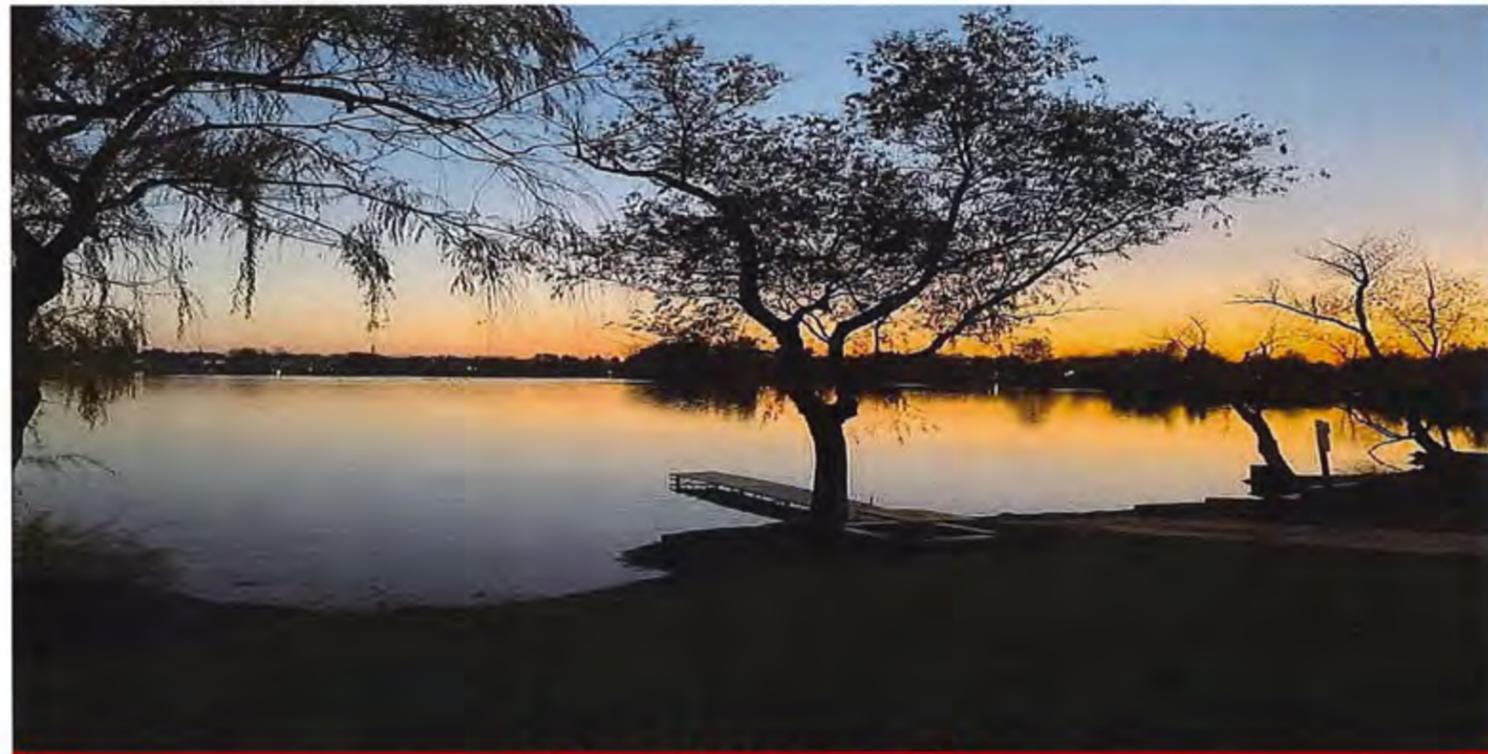
Welcome!

2025 was a year of continued momentum, meaningful investment, and growing community pride in the Village of Lakewood. Our residents, businesses, and visitors experienced major enhancements in amenities, recreation, public safety, and long-term development planning.

Lakewood continues to embody our foundation:

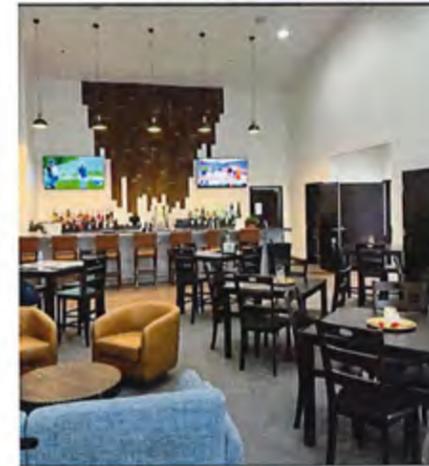
"Quality of Living in a Natural Setting."

With thriving neighborhoods, vibrant community events, and forward progress on critical infrastructure, the Village remains committed to responsible growth, exceptional services, and preserving the beautiful natural environment that makes Lakewood unique.



Village of Lakewood, IL

RedTail Clubhouse - A Growing Destination

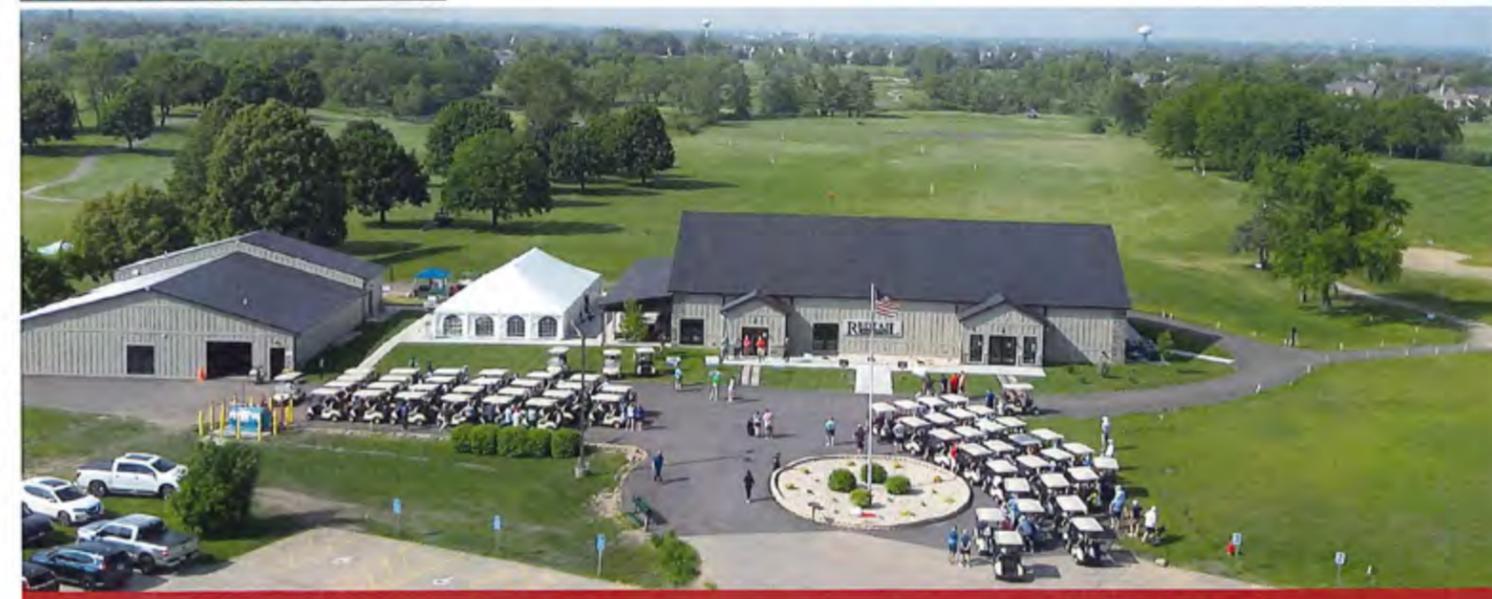


RedTail Golf Club continues to exceed all expectations in 2025, building on the success of the new clubhouse and expanding entertainment options for golfers and non-golfers alike.

Major 2025 Accomplishments

- Record usage and revenue growth, surpassing early projections once again.
- Expanded entertainment programming, including:
 - Dueling piano shows
 - Bingo nights
 - Indoor bags leagues
 - Simulator Golf during the off-season
- Strong community response, with the clubhouse becoming a premier dining, social, and event destination.
- Year-round activity, driven by the well-received restaurant, bar, and event spaces.

RedTail continues to be one of Lakewood's most significant quality-of-life assets and an economic driver for the Village.



Parks & Open Spaces

Lakewood Meadows Park

Now Open

Opened in Fall of 2025, Lakewood Meadows Park has been very well received by residents and visitors. This 10-acre park has quickly become a centerpiece of community activity. We appreciate the Crystal Lake Park District and all their hard work on this project.

2025 Park Features

- Pickleball courts
- Soccer fields
- Basketball courts
- Playground
- Splashpad a major hit during the summer season
- Open-air recreational space for families and community gatherings



Resident feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with the park becoming a top destination for recreation and neighborhood connection.

Capital Improvement

Water & Sewer Extension Phase 2 Progress

The Village advanced Phase 2 of the long-range water and sewer extension project.

2025 progress

- Construction and engineering work began to extend utilities to the Ballard road/Route 47 corridor.
- Several parcels in the project area are now available for sale or development, strengthening Lakewood's long-term economic prospects.
- Expansion of another 50+ acres into the Village of Lakewood.
- The Village continues exploring grant funding, public-private partnerships, and cost-effective planning to enable the future Phase 3 extension.



This utility expansion remains essential for responsible responsible growth and new commercial opportunities.

Public Safety

Public safety remained front and center in

2025. Key Highlights

- Continued officer development and training.
- Ongoing operational planning in response to the evolving requirements and challenges of the Illinois SAFE-T Act
- Investment in modern equipment and efficient service delivery.
- Strong community policing presence at Village events throughout the year.

The Police Department remains committed to proactive engagement and maintaining Lakewood's reputation as a safe, supportive community.



Community Events

The Village enjoyed another successful year of resident-focused activities and celebrations.

Signature 2025 Community Events

- The Witches Ride – expanded participation and strong local support
- Trunk or Treat (in partnership with Crystal Lake Park District)
- A variety of family-friendly gatherings, seasonal celebrations, and resident-driven activities that foster connection and tradition in Lakewood

Community events continue to enhance the livability and charm of the Village.



BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Crosspoint Lutheran Church
 (815) 893-0888
www.cplakewood.info

Crystal & Craig Woods Golf Clubs
 (815) 338-311
www.crystalwoodsgc.com

Excelsior Salon & Spa
 (815) 321-2099
www.vagaro.com/us04/reflections11

Edward Jones
 (815) 356-5401
www.edwardjones.com

Gardens of Woodstock
 (815) 337-2509
ww.gardensofwoodstock.com

Kolze's Corner Garden
 (815) 338-1475
www.kolzescornergardens.com

Leix Dental
 (815) 604-6104
www.leixdental.com

Lou Malanti's Pizzeria
 (815) 477-8100
www.loumalnatis.com/lakewood

The Nest Schools
 (815)571-5009
www.thenestschool.com

Rebecca McCarthy School of Dance
 (815)893-4069
www.rebeccamccarthyschoolofdance.com

RedTail Golf Club
 (815)477-0055
www.redtailgolf.com

Turnberry Golf Club
 (815)455-0501
www.turnberrycc.com

Simply Delicious Gourmet Catering
 (847)776-7609
www.simplydeliciousgourmetcatering.com

Shanti Canine Spa
 (815)526-3087
www.shanticaninespa.com

Sweet Feet Yoga
 (319)331-3689
www.sweetfeetyoga.com

The Village values every business partner and continues working to foster a strong, diverse, and resilient local economy.

2025 was a year defined by growth, investment, and community spirit. From the success of RedTail to the opening of Lakewood Meadows Park and forward movement on long-term infrastructure, the Village continues to elevate quality of life while preserving the natural beauty our residents cherish. Lakewood looks forward to another year of opportunity, partnership, and progress in 2026.

VILLAGE CONTACT INFORMATION

2500 Lake Ave, Village of Lakewood, IL 60014
 815-459-3205

Village President
 David Stavropoulos

Ancel Glink - Village Attorney
 Scott Puma

Village Manager
 Jean Heckman

Chief of Police
 Mike Roth

Director Public Works
 Gary Zickuhr

Village Clerk
 Jeanette LoBosco

Finance Clerk
 Stephanie Raine

Building Clerk
 Madison Mansolf

Police Records/Utilities Clerk
 Nicole Termanas

Benefits / Accounts Payable
 Lisa Harenza



7900 RedTail Drive, Village of Lakewood, IL 60014
 815-477-0055

General Manager
 Kenny Goodwin

Golf Pro
 Jake Hausch

Project Manager / Business Development
 Jen Gatti

Head Chef
 Eliud Ortiz-Cortes

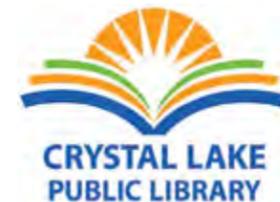
Board of Trustees

Tricia Babischkin
 Liz Delzell
 Mike Fischer
 Lonnie Jeschke
 Jason McMahon
 Bill Wayne

Planning & Zoning

Chairman: John O'Hara

Commissioners:
 Brian Augustine
 Andy Knapp
 Brian Mattick
 Paul Shamoun
 Sheldon Smith
 Jay Wozniak



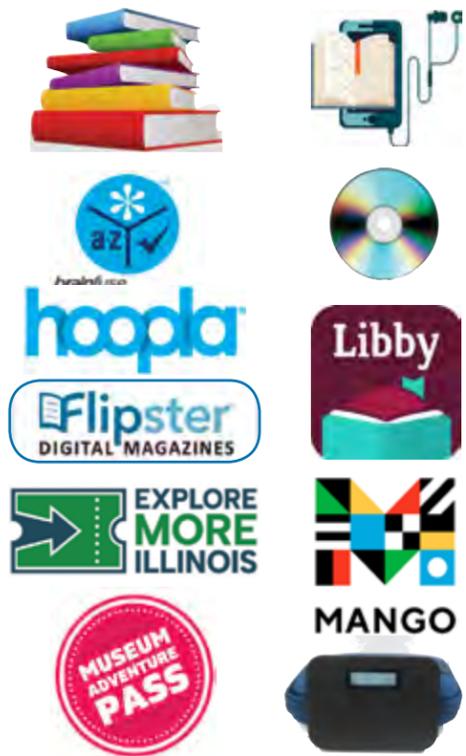
Crystal Lake Public Library has been serving the community since November 15, 1913. The Board of Library Trustees of the City of Crystal Lake and the library staff remain committed to providing enrichment, education, resources and entertainment to patrons.

~ Mission Statement ~
 "We help people, of all ages and backgrounds, learn, enjoy and better their lives."



Here's What You Can Borrow/Use With Your Library Card:

- Ancestry Library**
- Audiobooks**
- Books**
- Brainfuse HelpNow:** Free online homework help
- Digital Collection:** Libby, Hoopla, Flipster, Tumblebooks
- DVDs/Blu-rays:** Movies, TV shows, learning
- eBooks**
- Foreign Language Materials:** Spanish, Polish, Ukranian
- Library Databases:** Consumer Reports, Reference Solutions, Mango Languages, Value Line, ScholasticGO!
- Library of Things**
- Literacy Kits**
- Memory Kits**
- Museum Passes**
- Music CDs**
- Playaway Launchpads**
- Puzzles**
- Seeds from Seed Library**
- STEM Kits**
- Video Games**
- Wi-Fi Hotspots**



176,800
 People visited
 the library last year

603,131
 Materials circulated
 last year

118,100
 eMaterials circulated
 last year

67,300
 Reference questions
 last year

42,500
 People attended
 programs last year

19,656
 Library cardholders

(All stats from 5/1/24-4/30/25)

Launchpads for Kids
 Learning Tablets



Playaway
 Audiobooks



Memory
 Kits



Music
 CDs



Movies on DVD/
 Blu-ray



More Services Provided by the Library:

Programs:

Story times; computer classes; family concerts; teen programs; arts and crafts; author visits; gardening programs; book clubs; movies; and social gatherings.

Reference and Readers Assistance:

Librarians help with questions in person, via telephone or by "chat" on the library website, clpl.org. Staff find materials and offer reading recommendations. Visit clpl.org to fill out a book recommendation request form.

Library Consortium:

Reserve materials from the CLPL catalog **and** 32 other area libraries.

Literacy Programs:

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program; summer and winter reading programs.

U.S. Passport Application Service - over 1,600 passports issued in 2025!



Robust Wi-Fi; Free internet and computers

Notary Service

Visit the clpl.org calendar for a list of upcoming programs!



Current State of Operations:

The Library Board exercises a high degree of fiscal conservatism with an emphasis on strategic planning.

The library receives 97% of its income from property taxes. **The library only accounts for about 4% of your property tax bill.**

Engagement:

The following print and digital resources are available to keep the public informed about library programs, services and news:

Beacon Program Guide:

Print program guide mailed bimonthly to residents and businesses in the city of Crystal Lake; also available on clpl.org

Library Happenings eNewsletters:

Sent monthly

Facebook:

Crystal Lake Public Library

Spanish Facebook:

Biblioteca Pública de Crystal Lake

Instagram:

Crystal Lake Public Library and CLPL Teens

LinkedIn

Crystal Lake Public Library

YouTube:

Crystal Lake Public Library

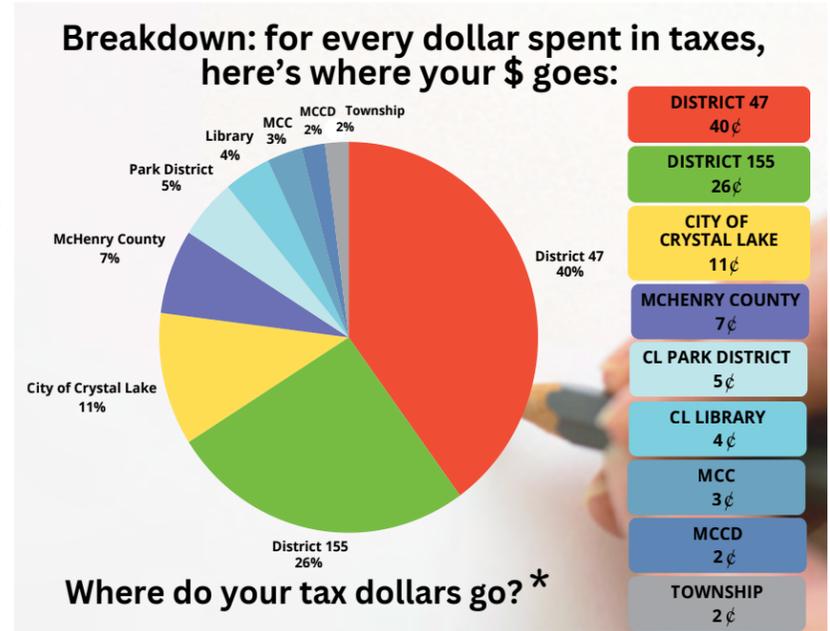
Goodreads:

Crystal Lake Public Library

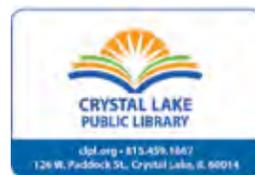
ihaveaquestion@clpl.org

Clpl.org:

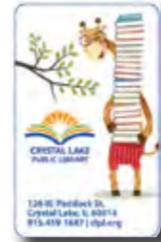
"Chat" on library website



*2023/2024 annual report



Residents and businesses located within the city of Crystal Lake are eligible for a Crystal Lake Public Library card. Nonresident students who attend a Crystal Lake Elementary District 47 school can get a Student Access Card, which enables students to borrow three items at a time and gives them access to the library's online educational resources.

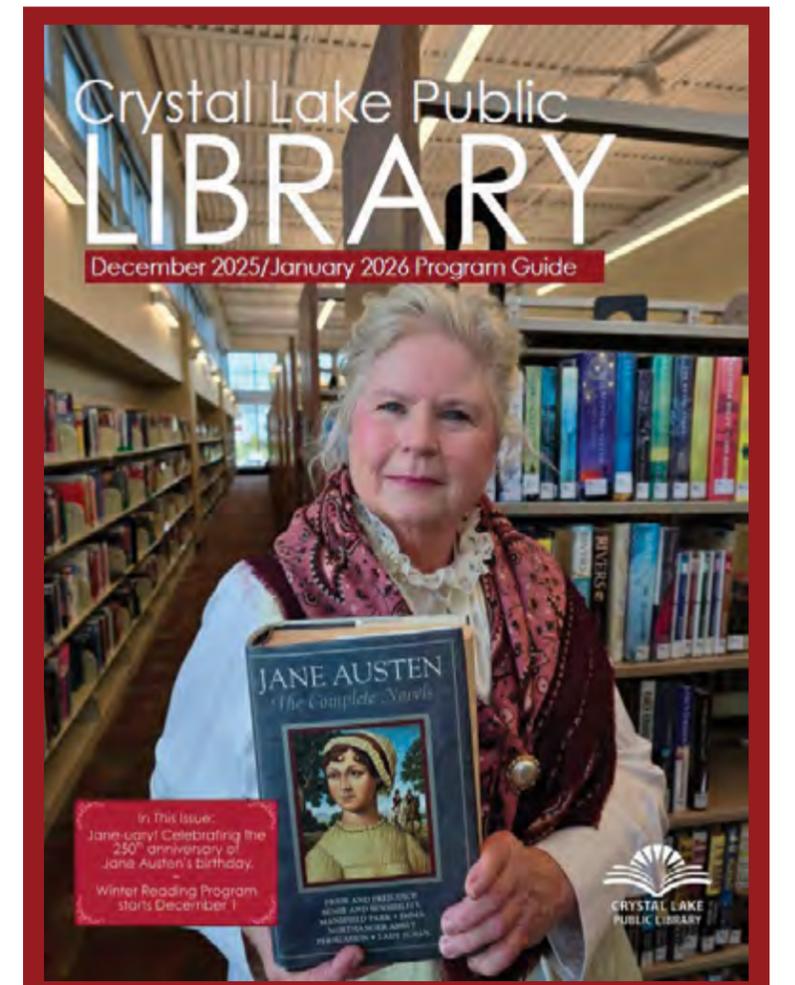


New in 2025: Library Launches 'Library of Things'

Why buy when you can borrow?

The Library of Things is a unique collection of tools, equipment and crafting supplies patrons can borrow using their library card. Visit Adult Services to see the Library of Things display, select a tag for the item you want to borrow and bring it to the Circulation Desk for checkout.

- Bike repair kit
- Binoculars
- Blu-ray player
- Board games
- CD/cassette player
- Cricut Easy Press
- Cricut Hat Press
- Cricut Mug Press
- Crochet set
- Electricity meter
- Film-to-digital converter
- Floppy disk reader
- Hand truck
- Karaoke machine
- Knife sharpener
- Knitting needle set
- Laser level
- Light therapy lamp
- Moisture detector
- Phone chargers
- Pickleball set w/net
- Projectors & screens
- Radon detector
- Ring light
- Scanner
- Sewing machine
- Stud finder
- Tire inflator
- Tonieboxes & characters
- Tripods
- Umbrellas
- Vehicle code reader
- Voltage tester
- Webcam
- Wireless game controllers
- Yarn winder
- Much more! Visit clpl.org > Services > Library of Things





Executive Director



Becky Fyolek

Becky Fyolek serves as the library's executive director. You can contact her at bfyolek@clpl.org or 815.459.5102.

Crystal Lake Public Library Department Heads



Karen Migaldi
Assistant Director
815.526.5103
kmigaldi@clpl.org



Nancy Weber
Head of Adult Services
815.526.5151
nweber@clpl.org



Mari Swift
Head of Circulation Services
815.526.5131
mswift@clpl.org



Dawn Dvorak
Head of Youth Services
815.526.5179
ddvorak@clpl.org



Penny Ramirez
Head of Technical & Automation Services
815.526.5193
pramirez@clpl.org



Janet Windeguth
Business Librarian
jwindeguth@clpl.org

Meet the Crystal Lake Public Library Board of Trustees



Cary Waxler
President
cwaxler@clpl.org



Charles Stump
Vice-President
cstump@clpl.org



Stacey Lorenz
Treasurer
slorenz@clpl.org



Rebecca Sisler
Secretary
bsisler@clpl.org



James Becker
jbecker@clpl.org



Bonita Drew
bdrew@clpl.org



Mary Fisher
mfisher@clpl.org



Nancy McFadden
nmcfadden@clpl.org



William Weller
bweller@clpl.org

The Crystal Lake Public Library Board is comprised of nine city residents who are appointed by the mayor of Crystal Lake with the approval of the city council. The Library Board is responsible for governing the library including overseeing its budget, policies and strategic plan. Board meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday	9 am-9 pm
Friday-Saturday	9 am-5 pm
Sunday	1-5 pm

Location

126 W. Paddock Street
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815.459.1687
clpl.org



MCHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

2025

YEAR IN REVIEW



MCC HIGHLIGHTS

OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITY

At McHenry County College, this past year was marked by innovation, progress, and a continued focus on student success. Guided by our mission—our focus is learning; student success is our goal—and the approval of a new five-year strategic plan, we worked to ensure that every learner has access to meaningful pathways forward.

Across the College, we strengthened programs, expanded learning spaces, and enhanced support services to meet students where they are and help them take their next step—whether that begins with a single class, a new credential, a workforce training opportunity, or a community-based experience. Each step, no matter how small, creates momentum and opens the door to new possibilities.

We continued to invest in unique initiatives, deepen partnerships with employers and community organizations, and remove barriers that can stand in the way of educational success. In all of these efforts, our commitment remained clear: to provide a welcoming, supportive environment where students can grow, persist, and thrive.

As we look ahead, MCC remains dedicated to empowering individuals, strengthening our community, and helping learners build brighter futures—one step at a time.

To learn more about current program offerings, events, and college goals, visit www.mchenry.edu.



ENROLLMENT

- **Increased overall enrollment.** Headcount increased by 7% from Spring 2024 to Spring 2025 and 2% from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025, including Adult Education and Dual Degree programs.
- **Saw steady enrollment in Dual Credit programs.** Dual credit classes allow high school students to earn both high school and college credit, saving them time and money. Headcount has grown 6% over the past five years (Fall 2021 – Fall 2025) and has more than doubled since Fall 2017.
- **Celebrated several cohorts of graduates from our Dual Degree program.** 34 students from Woodstock D200, 8 from Harvard Community Unit School District 50, and 20 from Huntley District 158 graduated with both their high school diploma and an associate degree in Spring 2025.
- **Delivered comprehensive Adult Education programming.** In 2025, Adult Education served 1,540 students, including 50 students in on-site classes at the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Huntley. 15 students also transitioned from Adult Education classes to college courses, including Administrative Office Technologies, Basic Nursing Assistant, and Phlebotomy.

STUDENT SUPPORT

- **Awarded more than 1,130 scholarships providing over \$863,000 in assistance to MCC students.** The Friends of MCC Foundation also supported students experiencing unexpected financial emergencies, awarding more than \$25,500 through the Student Success Fund.
- **Provided a wide variety of resources to help students stay in school.** This included \$3,620 in MCC Café Cards for those facing food insecurity; \$940 in Café vouchers for students needing intermittent food assistance; \$3,275 in gas cards to help with transportation to school; and \$3,000 in textbook assistance. Additionally, 11,534 meals and snacks valued at \$5,672 were distributed through MCC mini pantries. The Center for Agrarian Learning also provided \$159 worth of vouchers for fresh produce for students in need.
- **Facilitated 4,089 rides to campus.** Transportation services were provided through a partnership with MCRide from January through October 2025.
- **Kept tuition and fee rates flat for FY2026.** The decision was in response to the economic challenges facing students and their families, and helps ensure education remains accessible across the community.

PROGRAMMING

- **Expanded opportunities through Career Spark programs.** A new partnership with JB Aviation allows future pilots to begin their training locally, while a new program for Sterile Processing Technician Training expanded training opportunities in the healthcare field. Freight Broker/Agent Training also debuted under the guidance of an experienced logistics professional.
- **Enhanced academic programs and classes.** Added degrees in Video Production and Editing, Radiologic Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Architectural Technology, along with several certificate programs. Curriculum for multiple career and technical education programs was also reviewed and strengthened.
- **Achieved success across MCC Scots Athletics programs.** In 2025, the Athletics program had 32 ISCC All-Conference honorees, five All-Region 4 honorees, and two ISCC players of the year. The Volleyball and Women's Tennis teams won ISCC championships, and the Baseball team won the Region 4 championship. Academically, the program met their 3.0 GPA goal and had 27 students earn NJCAA Academic All-American status.
- **Celebrated students studying abroad.** Ten students studied abroad in countries including Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, England, France, Ireland, and Spain.
- **Ranked #1 Nursing Program in Illinois for 2026 by Registered Nursing.org.** The rankings are based on schools' first-time NCLEX pass rates and help prospective students make informed decisions about nursing programs.

INNOVATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- **Started construction on Engagement Hall.** The 250-person venue will bring students, employees, and friends of the College together for a variety of programs and events.
- **Expanded and updated healthcare training spaces.** Added new, state-of-the-art labs for Radiology and Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs, as well as updated Nursing and EMS training labs.
- **Updated the Learning Commons.** The space is now more engaging and helpful for students (including the Library, IT Help Desk, and Tutoring and Academic Support Center).
- **Received Fabrication Lab certification.** The Lab—which offers 3D printers, laser cutters, digital embroidery machines, and more—is now certified by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Center for Bits and Atoms. The College's parent lab, the Wanger Family Fab Lab at the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, was instrumental in the certification process.

MCC HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)

- **Welcomed the Luecht Historical Collection to campus.** The collection contains more than 160 historical documents highlighting moments of United States and world history, making it a valuable learning tool for students and the community.

COMMUNITY

- **Hosted the Community Block Party on campus.** Our third-annual event featured family-friendly entertainment, live music, food trucks, and opportunities for MCC alumni to connect. Bringing the event to campus allowed attendees to explore some of the newest spaces at the college.
- **Expanded Community Enrichment programming through new partnerships and course offerings.** Collaborations with local organizations and businesses—including Main Stay Therapeutic Farm, PastaBar, and the Clayworkers' Guild of Illinois—along with new classes in basic French, tea blending, and date night culinary experiences, brought more unique, high-quality learning opportunities to the community.
- **Welcomed hundreds of community members to campus.** Our LISI events, concert series, plays, planetarium shows, art galleries, People in Need Forum, Green Living Expo and Repair Fair, academic competitions, and more invited people from across the area to connect, discover, engage, and learn on MCC's campus.
- **Connected more than 80 high school students with summer manufacturing internships.** In partnership with the Manufacturing Pathways Consortium, students gained hands-on experience in high-skilled career fields at local manufacturers. Dozens of high school students also explored career paths through internships in construction, healthcare, and other skilled trades.
- **Increased enrollment in Kids and College programs.** More than 1,500 students came to campus this summer for offerings ranging from the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry's Young Makers Camps to baking and cooking classes with MCC's Culinary Department. Programming is now offered year-round, including a special Spring Break program.
- **Launched the Voices in Disability Conference.** Attendees heard powerful firsthand stories, connected with fellow professionals and advocates, and participated in breakout discussions focused on disability, inclusion, and accessibility.

- **Established an on-campus partnership with the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation and MCC's Small Business Development Center.** The collaboration brings together two organizations dedicated to fostering local business success and economic growth in McHenry County.

GRANTS

Awarded more than \$4.8 million in grant funding, including:

- \$140,000 to expand business and career training opportunities at Catalyst Campus
- \$133,172 to provide advising to high school students enrolled in dual credit courses, helping them develop an academic plan
- \$168,118 for licensed clinical mental health and wellness services for MCC students, offered in person and online
- \$50,231 to operate the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic, providing no-cost assistance to eligible taxpayers
- More than \$200,000 in scholarship funding for students transferring into bachelor's degree programs at the University Center

In 2025, grants made it possible for:

- 45 students to complete a paid internship in their desired career field
- 70 children to attend modern manufacturing camps through the Kids and College Program
- More than 400 students to receive scholarship funding, helping them to achieve their educational and career goals

ENGAGE WITH MCC

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Suzanne Hoban
Chair



Dale Morton
Vice Chair



Alyssa Kueffner
Secretary



Tom Allen



Tess Reinhard



Elizabeth Speros



Linnea Kooistra



Estefany Castro
Student Trustee
**2025 Student Trustee*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS

Board Meetings are held in Room A217 at the College. These meetings are open to the public and are also streamed live.

Find the most current list of upcoming meeting dates, information packets, and videos of past meetings at www.mchenry.edu/board.

CONTACT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

mcctrustees@mchenry.edu

EXECUTIVE CABINET



Dr. Clint Gabbard
President



Dr. Daniela Broderick
Vice President of Academic Affairs/Chief Academic Officer



Christina Haggerty
Chief Advancement and Marketing Officer



Timothy Hopkins
Chief Information Officer



Dr. Talia Koronkiewicz
Chief People Officer



Robert Tenuta
Chief Financial Officer/
Treasurer



For the seventh year in a row, all four District 155 high schools ranked in the top 14% nationwide

in U.S. News & World Report, out of nearly 24,000 public schools. This recognition reflects our community's **commitment to student success.**

NICHE RANKS
D155



BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT
in McHenry County



BEST TEACHERS
in McHenry County



BEST PLACE TO TEACH
in McHenry County



13TH BEST SCHOOL DISTRICT IN ILLINOIS
out of 407 districts

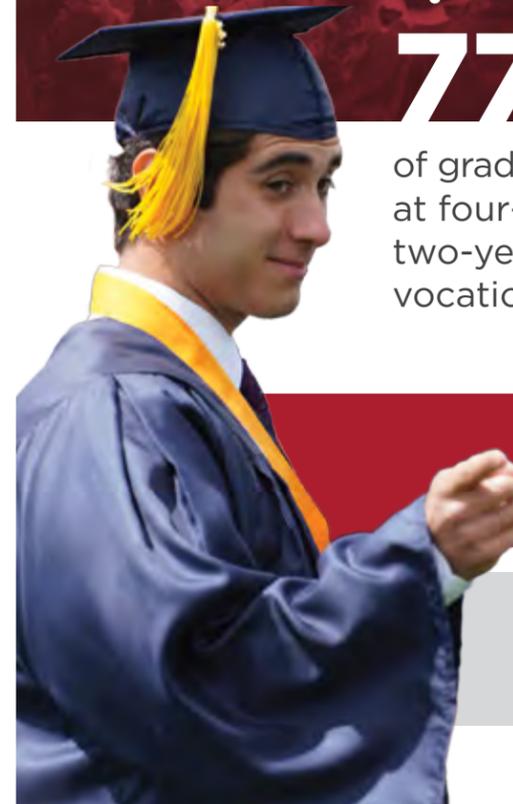
COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

1,333 Graduates

77% **73**

of graduates will continue their education at four-year colleges and universities, two-year community colleges, and vocational and technical schools.

students are pursuing trade and apprenticeship programs.



93.2%
D155's Graduation Rate

87.7%
State's Graduation Rate



Top 3 Career Paths



18%
Health Science



15%
STEM



11%
Business Management & Administration



\$11,551,121

in scholarships awarded to 2025 graduates



...35

students will serve in the armed forces.

- 9 Marines
- 7 National Guard
- 4 Navy
- 8 Army
- 6 Air Force
- 1 Reserves

Top Schools



337

McHenry County College



56

University of Illinois



55

Iowa State University



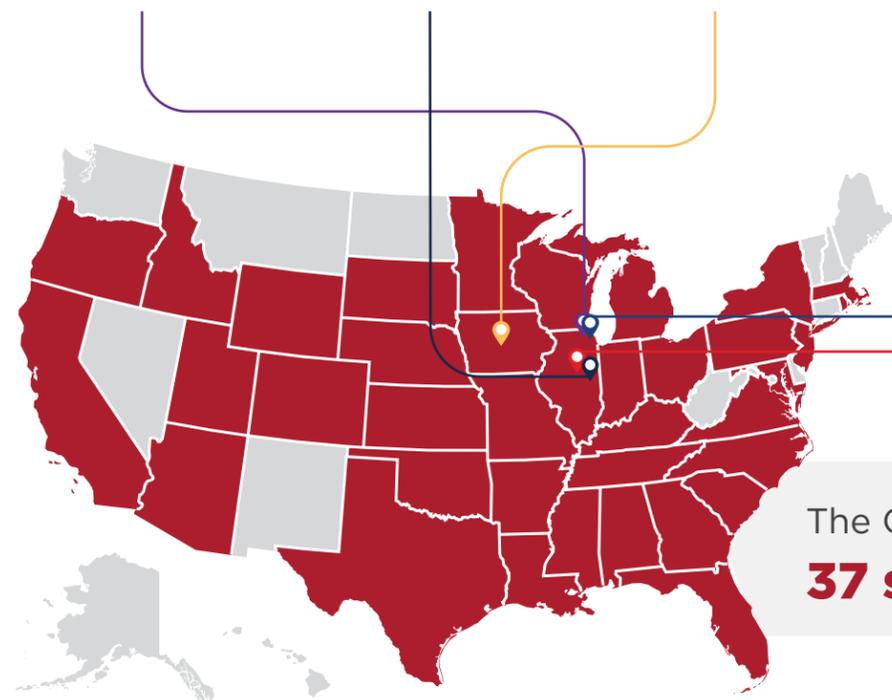
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Illinois State University



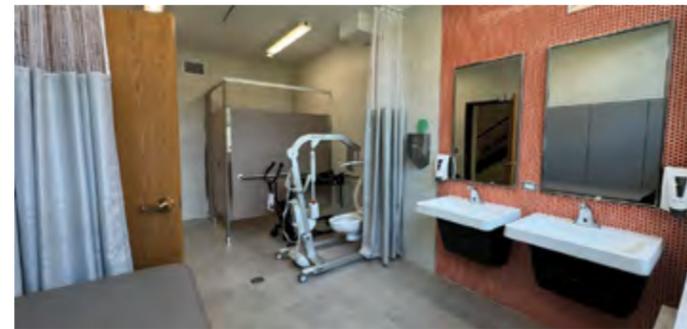
22

Harper College



The Class of 2025 is studying in **37 states and in Italy**

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY



The D155 Board of Education approved approximately \$7,200,000 to complete 12 capital improvement projects across the district during the summer of 2025, part of a continuing effort to improve the learning environment for students and maintain facilities.

Cary-Grove High School

- Auxiliary Gym Renovations
- Functional Communication Skills Apartment
- Security Vestibule
- Multipurpose Room Flooring

Crystal Lake Central High School

- Window Replacement
- Special Needs Bathroom
- Roof Replacement — Area A/B/C/D

Crystal Lake South High School

- Fire Alarm Improvements

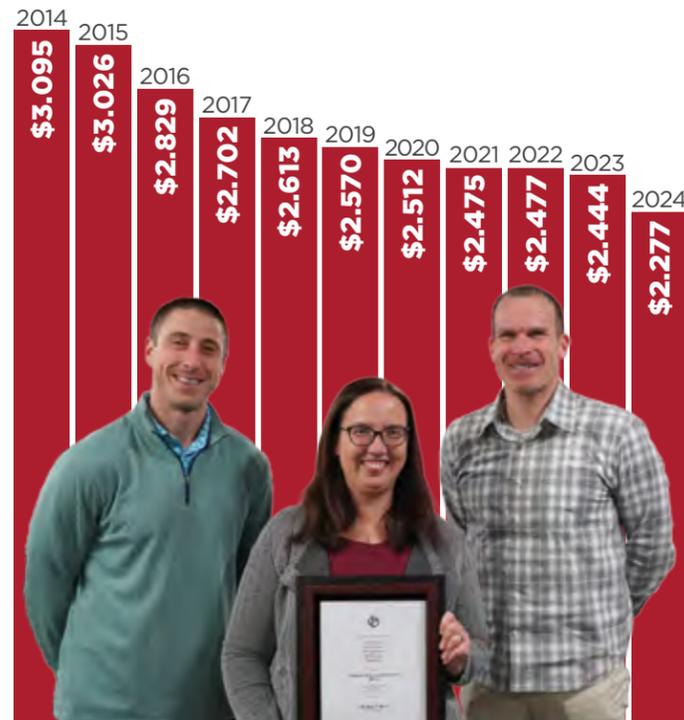
Prairie Ridge High School

- First Floor Window Replacement
- Main Entrance Curtainwall
- Theater Improvements

TJA

- Electric Bus Infrastructure

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

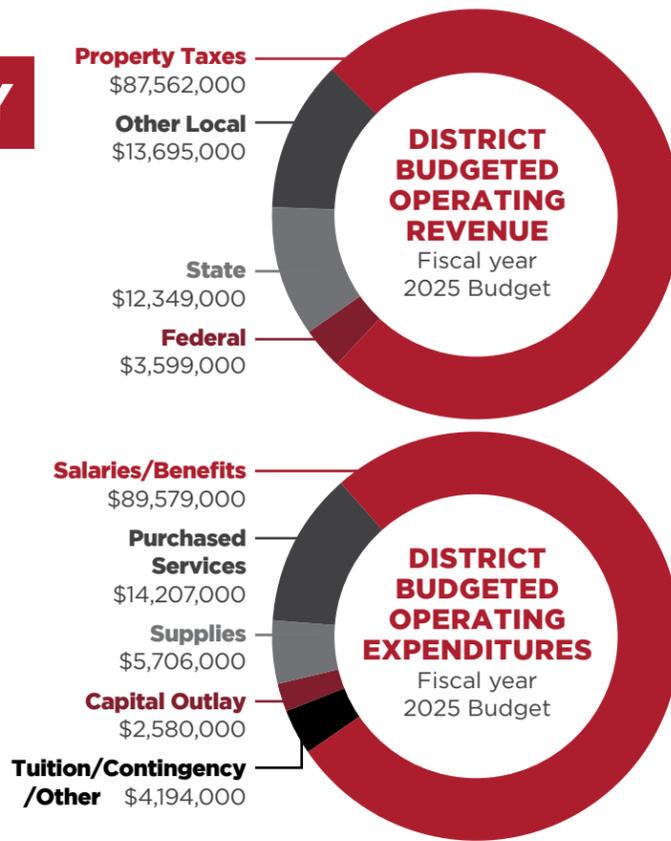


D155 Tax Rate

Over the past year, the D155 tax rate decreased to \$2.277 per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) in Tax Year 2024. Over the past 10 years, the district tax rate has decreased, totaling a over 25% decrease (see graph). During that same 10-year span, District property values have increased every year. District 155 has no control over housing assessments, and individual tax bills may fluctuate as property values increase or decrease.

Balanced Operating Budget

District 155 remains committed to fiscal responsibility and has received the highest designation for financial management for the past two decades by the Illinois State Board of Education. The District 155 finance department provides accurate, reliable, and consistent financial data to both internal teams and our community stakeholders. The district has maintained a balanced budget with operating revenues exceeding operating expenditures for the past ten years, including the most recent 2024-2025 Fiscal Year. The district will continue to focus on providing resources to best educate our students while being mindful of our taxpayers.



D155 Wins 10 Years of International Awards for Financial Excellence

Community High School District 155 has received two national awards for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. For the 10th consecutive year, the district earned the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), the highest recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. The ASBO and GFOA awards recognize districts that demonstrate financial transparency, accountability, and clear communication of their financial position. District 155's ACFR met rigorous professional standards and was reviewed by financial experts, underscoring the district's strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and best practices in educational finance.

BOARD OF EDUCATION & ADMINISTRATION



The Board of Education is a seven-member elected body tasked with shaping the district's policies, employing and advising the superintendent, employing personnel, and making specific school decisions. Each member is elected to a four-year term and serves on a volunteer basis, receiving no compensation. To ensure transparency and community involvement, the Board holds monthly public meetings where district matters are discussed, as well as citizens' concerns. The meeting schedules are posted in advance on the district's website, providing the public an opportunity to stay informed and participate. Board members must reside within the boundaries of District 155. Through their leadership and dedication, the Board plays a critical role in shaping the educational experience for all students in the district. Members can be contacted by email at board@d155.org.

Board of Education

Nicole Pavoris | Board President
Ms. Pavoris was first elected in April 2017, and her term expires in 2029.

Stephanie Macro | Board Vice President
Ms. Macro was first elected in April 2023, and her term expires in 2027.

Amy Blazier | Board Member
Ms. Blazier was first elected in April 2015, and her term expires in 2027.

Dave Jenkins | Board Member
Mr. Jenkins was first elected in April 2025, and his term expires in 2029.

Steve Kieffer | Board Member
Mr. Kieffer was first elected in April 2023, and his term expires in 2027.

Elizabeth Lund | Board Member
Ms. Lund was first elected in April 2025, and her term expires in 2029.

Dr. Ryan Olson | Board Member
Dr. Olson was first elected in 2025, and his term expires in 2029.

2025 - 2026 Administration

Dr. Neil Lesinski
Superintendent

Trey Breeden
Chief Technology Officer

Kimberly Bromley
Principal, Crystal Lake South High School

Erica Bruso
Director of Fiscal Services

Justin DeBolt
Director of Community Partnerships & District Safety

Julie Duncan
Coordinator of Off-Campus Programs, Haber Oaks

Rachel Keeseey
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Special Education

Steve Knope
Director of Multilingual Services & Family Engagement

Dr. Steve Koch
Principal, Prairie Ridge High School

Josh Nobilio
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

Shannon Podzimek
Director of Communications & Community Relations

Lori Ratliff
Director of Teaching & Learning, Curriculum & Pathways

Rebecca Saffert
Principal, Cary-Grove High School

Carson Sterchi
Principal, Crystal Lake Central High School

Troy Stinger
Director of Operations

Matthew Timmerman
Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services & Strategic Partnerships

Dr. Kevin Werner
Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations/Chief School Business Official



Grow. Empower. Thrive.

The 2024-2025 school year brought big changes and major milestones for District 47! On January 21, 2025, the Board of Education approved a new five-year strategic plan, complete with a refreshed mission, vision, values, and goals. **Grow. Empower. Thrive.** is our new mission, and this report is a true reflection of that mission in action. Creating the plan brought together staff, parents, community members, board members, administrators, and students, all deeply committed to doing what's best for students.

The 2024-2025 Illinois Report Card showed continued growth across the district. North Elementary earned the highest designation of Exemplary, placing it among the top 10% of schools in Illinois. The progress we see in every school is a reflection of the dedication and hard work of our staff and students, and the collaboration and support of our entire school community. Notably, District 47's English Language Arts (ELA) and science proficiency rates exceeded state averages, while math growth reached its highest level in the past five years, reflecting the impact of the district's new math curriculum, high-quality instruction, and targeted support.

Our district continued to empower staff through our Grow Your Own program, providing financial support for student teaching and coursework to help fill hard-to-staff positions. This year, a state grant supported 25 staff members in earning endorsements in Special Education and Dual Language, and assisted three staff members in completing their student teaching and degree requirements in Elementary Education with a Bilingual focus.

Another milestone: the 20th anniversary of our Dual Language Program! Launched in 2004 with just two classrooms, the program now serves over 1,000 students across five schools, from kindergarten through 8th grade. Students receive instruction in English and Spanish, with a strong focus on academic achievement, biliteracy, and cultural awareness.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, it's clear that our mission is alive in every classroom, every student, and every staff member, guiding us toward the goals of our strategic plan and a bright future ahead.



Year in Review

2024 - 2025

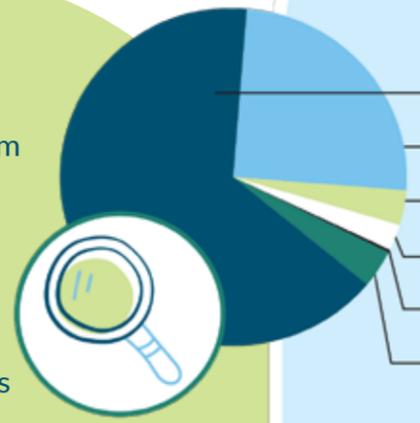


Sincerely,
Dr. Kathy J. Hinz
Superintendent

Scan QR codes throughout to access videos, articles, or podcast episodes

47 Facts & Figures

- 6,872** Students Enrolled
- 226** Students Enrolled in PreK Program
- 1000+** Students in Dual Language
- 90+** Clubs, Athletics & Activities
- 7.3%** Students in Extended Curriculum
- 34%** Qualify for Free & Reduced Meals
- 15.4%** Students Receive Special Education Services



- Student Demographics**
- 65.3%** White
 - 24.6%** Hispanic
 - 3.3%** Asian
 - 2.7%** African American
 - 0.1%** Pacific Islander
 - 4%** 2+ Ethnicities
 - 65** Languages Spoken



Teaching and Learning



Buddy Schools Connect D47 Students
 NJHS students at Lundahl Middle School partnered with South Elementary students in a six-week Learning Buddies mentorship program. Middle schoolers guided younger students in communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, while building their own leadership skills and confidence. A similar Learning Buddies program took place at Bernotas Middle School and North Elementary, strengthening District 47's focus on leadership, and cross-grade connections.

Exemplary Recognition and Growth Highlight Illinois Report Card Success
 North Elementary achieved the highest designation of Exemplary, placing it among the top 10% of schools in Illinois. Across District 47, students exceeded state averages in English Language Arts (ELA) and science proficiency, while math growth reached a five-year high, showcasing the impact of strong instruction, updated curriculum, and dedicated staff.



Professional Development: Supporting All Learners
 District 47 strengthened instructional practices through two grant-funded professional learning opportunities. All elementary certified staff (PreK-5) participated in a session with Dr. Paula Kluth focused on practical, classroom-ready strategies for inclusive instruction and supporting diverse learning needs. Special Education and EL educators also engaged in targeted training with Dr. Barbara Marler, who emphasized effective collaboration, shared problem-solving, and tools for designing instruction that helps all students succeed.

District 47 Celebrates 20 Years of Dual Language
 The district celebrated the 20th anniversary of its Dual Language Program with a Multicultural Night at North Elementary. Families, staff, and community members enjoyed bilingual performances, multicultural activities, and reading sessions in multiple languages, highlighting the diversity of District 47's students. Launched in 2004 with two classrooms, the program has grown to serve over 1,000 students across five schools, spanning kindergarten through 8th grade and promoting biliteracy, cultural awareness, and academic achievement.



Talented and Invested Staff



1,402 Staff Members

73% Hold an Advanced Degree

10 years Average Experience



87% Teacher Retention Rate

2nd Largest Employer in McHenry County



Investing in Staff Growth

District 47 continues to empower staff through the Teacher Vacancy Grant, providing financial support for student teaching and coursework to fill hard-to-staff positions. This year, the grant supported 25 staff members in earning endorsements in Special Education and Dual Language and assisted three staff members in completing their student teaching and degree requirements in Elementary Education with a Bilingual focus.

Inspiring Future Educators

D155 dual credit students in McHenry County College's Intro to Education program shadowed teachers at Husmann Elementary and Bernotas Middle School. This experience provided insights into the teaching profession, hoping to inspire the next generation of educators.

Elevate Award Staff Recognition

This year, 30 exceptional staff members were honored with the Elevate Staff Award for embodying District 47's mission and going above and beyond in their work. Their dedication makes a lasting difference in the lives of students, strengthens our schools, and enriches the wider community.



Women of Distinction Award

Kristin Schmidt, Director of Social Emotional Learning, was recognized as a 2025 Women of Distinction honoree for her work advancing social-emotional learning, commitment to student well-being, and impact on district and county initiatives.



District 47 Educators Recognized by ISBE

Three District 47 educators were recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education's *Those Who Excel* program. Joanne Rivera, Pre-K Bilingual Teacher at Glacier Ridge, and Meagan Powell, 5th Grade Dual Language Teacher at Coventry, received the Award of Special Recognition. Kate Walsh, Extended Curriculum Teacher at Woods Creek, received the Award of Excellence, the program's highest honor, for her commitment to student success and fostering a positive school culture.



Turning Point Heart Award

Nicole Thompson, Bernotas Middle School health teacher, earned the first-ever Turning Point Heart Award for her work teaching students about healthy relationships and violence-prevention.

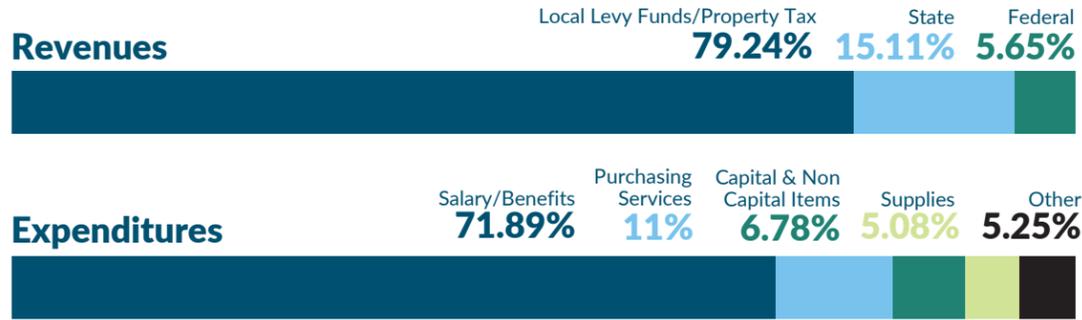
National Grant Recipient

Gina Stevens, Multilingual Learner Teacher at Bernotas Middle School, secured a national grant to purchase multilingual resources for her classroom.

Finance and Facilities



2024-2025 Revenues & Expenditures



Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting

District 47 received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) by the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO), marking the 38th consecutive year the district has achieved the recognition. ASBO International recognizes school districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency.

D47 Tax Rate Reduction

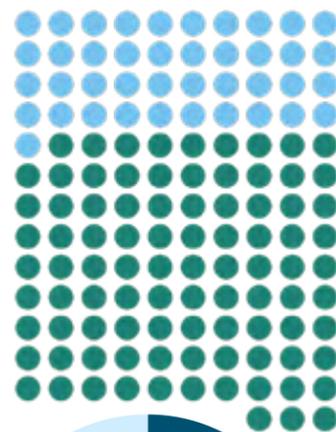
For the past five years, the District 47 tax rate per \$100 of Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) has decreased, from \$3.85 in 2020 to \$3.42 in 2024, for a total decrease of about 16%. A lower tax rate may result in savings for homeowners, but the change in each property's assessed valuation will determine the actual impact. District 47 does not determine the assessed valuation of homes.

Safety and Wellness

District 47 is the first school district in Illinois to partner with Daybreak Health, a leading K-12 mental health provider, to offer an evidence-based teletherapy program at no cost to families.

Benefits include improved behavior and emotional well-being, academic growth and better grades, and increased attendance and engagement.

In its first full school year:



133
Students referred

92
Completed onboarding and moved into care



of students served showed measureable clinical improvement

Communication and Engagement



3,400+
Website Chatbot Questions Answered



4,000+
Podcast Episode Downloads



886,000+
Website Views



1.64 Million+
Total Views on Facebook & Instagram

Executive Council

Dr. Kathy J. Hinz, Superintendent
Dave Jenkins, Assistant Superintendent of Technology Services
Aimee Kasper, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment
Cathy Nelson, Assistant Superintendent of Business
Dr. Eric Olson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Kari Firak, Director of Communications & Public Engagement

Board of Education

The District 47 Board of Education is the legal governing body of the district and consists of seven elected members serving a typical term of four years without compensation. Board meetings are usually held the third Monday of the month at the CORE Center, 300 Commerce Dr. in Crystal Lake. Meetings begin with a closed session at 6:00 p.m. and an open, public session at 7:00 p.m. The board can be reached at boe@d47.org. (Pictured from left to right: Lea Grover, Maria Krause, Laura Stanton (Vice President), Alena Lewis, Dr. Debra Barton, (President), Emily Smith, Dr. Lisa Messinger)

Contact Information

CORE Center 815.788.5000 | Dr. Kathy Hinz, Supt.

Canterbury Elementary
can.d47.org | @canterburyd47
 815.788.5650 | Ryan Schaefer, Principal

Coventry Elementary
cov.d47.org | @coventryd47
 815.788.5550 | Matt Grubbs, Principal

Glacier Ridge PreK-5
grs.d47.org | @glacierridged47
 815.444.4850 | Dr. Anastasia Gruper, Principal

Husmann Elementary
hus.d47.org | @husmandd47
 815.356.3400 | Guy Sromek, Principal

Indian Prairie Elementary
ips.d47.org | @indianprairied47
 815.788.5700 | Jodie Moss, Principal

North Elementary
nor.d47.org | @starhuskiesd47
 815.356.3450 | Michelle Barrett, Principal

South Elementary
sou.d47.org | @southd47
 815.788.5400 | Rachael Alt, Principal

West Elementary
wes.d47.org | @d47west
 815.788.5550 | Kathryn Cruz, Principal

Woods Creek Elementary
wds.d47.org | @woodscreekd47
 815.444.4800 | Dr. Amy Marks, Principal

Hannah Beardsley Middle School
hbm.d47.org | @hmbmbears
 815.788.5750 | Carrie Turman, Principal

Bernotas Middle School
rbm.d47.org | @bernotasvikings
 815.788.5600 | Kellie Marks, Principal

Lundahl Middle School
lms.d47.org | @lundahlions
 815.788.5450 | Angie Compere, Principal



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Send an email to communications@d47.org to be added to the email list for our monthly newsletter!

Download the ParentSquare app for quick access to district and school event calendars, lunch menus, ParentVUE, MyPaymentsPlus, and more!

www.d47.org



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