CRETE TOWNSHIP Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2026

FROM THE SUPERVISOR MICHAEL J. LICCAR

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

- Albert Camus



Happy Autumn! Hoping you are enjoying the colorful change of seasons as we get ready for the new year. A lot is going on at Crete Township. Here's a few quick updates:

Crete Township Community Center (25930 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Crete)

• **Community Garden:**

The Community Garden is up and running and has already delivered fresh produce to the Crete Food Pantry for distribution. Costs of the program were covered by a grant from the Community Development Division of Will County Land Use.

• **Youth Fishing Program:**

This program was launched in the summer at the Community Center pond and was quite successful. We appreciate our volunteers and the families who took part in this new program. We are adding to the fish stock and hope to expand the program next year. The children were taught the basics of fishing safety, including rod & reel setup and maintenance, casting and baiting.

• **Commercial Kitchen:**

Initial planning and framing has commenced. Crete Township was awarded a grant from the Crete Lions Club for kitchen equipment. We are working closely with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to complete an appropriation sponsored for the project by Illinois Representative Thaddeus Jones under the Build Illinois Program as well as subsequent appropriations, sponsored by Rep. Anthony DeLuca and Sen. Patrick Joyce under the same program. We are also grateful to have received donations of kitchen equipment which were arranged by Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant. The commercial kitchen will be utilized for providing meals for seniors and those in need, nutrition education as well as an incubator for small local businesses.

• **"Crete Township USA Fest" -**

Saturday, July 18th, 11am-4pm. The event was held on July 18th and was a rousing success, bringing together our entire community to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of our nation. This free event included the Crete-Monee High School Marching Band, bagpipers, singers, a barbershop quartet, bluegrass band, pony rides, petting zoo, colonial reenactments, storyteller, historic pioneer campsite, games, food & refreshments. The Events Planning Committee is looking into setting up future events.

• **Senior Events:**

December 10th at 11:30am - Annual Seniors' Christmas Luncheon. A free holiday luncheon for Township seniors which includes a delicious lunch and music. Call Town Hall at 708-672-8279, Option 1, to reserve tickets.

• Coffee Time Get Together: Tuesdays & Fridays: beginning at 9am.

• Fridays: Bingo at 10am.

• Pinochle Club: 2nd and 4th Thursdays 10:30am-12:30pm.

• **Friends of the Crete Township Community Center Non-Profit Organization:**

"Friends" is a 501c3 public charity which is accepting donations for the various Crete Township Community Center activities and events. Funds are being raised for infrastructure youth, family and senior activities, including rehabbing the large multi-purpose room for improved flooring, lighting, sound system and sports as well as developing outside pavilions and walking paths and other recreational projects. Friends has initiated a new Engraved Brick fundraiser where you can feature your business or honor your family and loved ones with custom bricks which will be placed at the front exterior driveway and special interior displays at the Community Center. For more information, please contact us at friends@cretetownship.com or 708-722-1857.

• **"Great Outdoors" Recreation:**

The Crete Township Board and "Friends of the Crete Township Community Center" are now working towards the development of pavilions, walking trails and other outdoor facilities to provide areas for picnics, nature studies, outdoor concerts and other activities at the Community Center.

OTHER NEWS

• **Crete Country Christmas:**

This beloved holiday tradition will be held from December 3rd-8th and features loads of activities, entertainment, activities, food and refreshments guaranteeing fun for the entire family! More information at https://cretecountrychristmas.com

Lastly, wanted to give a shout-out to our Crete Township Road Crew, under the leadership of Highway Commissioner Tony Recupito, for their "yeoman's work" in clearing of many trees and debris for over 85 miles of road during the unprecedented storms in July and August. Fine work!

Michael J. Liccar

Supervisor
michael.liccar@cretetownship.com
708.672.8279

News From The Clerk



JIM BUITER, TOWNSHIP CLERK

It has been very hot summer and early fall, but the cooler weather is here. The Clerk's Office facilitated the publication of the Treasurer's report as submission to the State of Illinois Comptroller's Office in Springfield. We will have early voting from October 26 through October 31, 2026. Please join us for our regularly scheduled board meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. If you have any questions or concerns, the Clerk can always be reached at the Township offices.

Jim Buiter

Crete Township Clerk

Building & Grounds



FRANK ELTON, TRUSTEE

Well, summer has come to a close, and we have been very busy at the Community Center. We just replaced a 30-ton heating and air conditioning unit. We have painted several rooms throughout the center. We have spent a lot of time clearing the back of the property all the way to the pond. We have installed cameras to cover the whole back pond and placed No Trespassing and Video Surveillance signs in several places.

The storm blew in one overhead door and damaged the other two, so we hired a company to temporarily put the door back up. We are currently working with the insurance company to replace all 3 doors. Also, the lights in the parking lot were damaged by an electrical surge. We are working with ComEd to replace the lights at a discounted rate. And we are also continuing to work on the kitchen.

With fall coming, we had all furnaces serviced and filters changed. We found one roof unit that will have to be replaced in the spring.

The flower boxes on Wood Street will be changed to fall/winter arrangements in the next few weeks.

The good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, we will make it through the winter with no surprises!!



God Bless,

Frank Elton

Crete Township Trustee

Crete Township Community Center

Article written by Trustee Cheryl Albrecht, and Community Center Coordinator Carol Millsap



CHERYL ALBRECHT, TRUSTEE

Happy Fall! The Crete Township Community Center has been very busy this Fall. Here are some of the things that have been happening!

We've had a very successful Epic Collectibles Extravaganza hosted by Closet Collectibles on the weekend of Oct 2 & 3rd. Also on October 24th, Crete Township joined with the Crete Lions Club to host the Halloween Hoopla. Fun was had by all!

Our **Youth Fishing Program** finished up in August. This was a big success and will resume in Spring of 2027. We've stocked the pond in September so there will be great fishing in 2027.

Sound Meditation Class with Chris Manola has been a huge success. You'll be invited to unwind, reset & reconnect through gentle guided meditation & calming power of vibration and sound. Register by calling 708-722-1857, leave your name and phone number.

Rock Revolution- This is a youth program for music lovers and future Rock Stars! Ages 11-18. If your child is interested, please call 708-722-1857 and leave your name & number or email rockrevolution@cretetownship.com

On the Move-Women's work out club that has a low membership fee. 6 month and 1-year memberships available. Please call 708-515-4494 if you're interested.

Walking Club- Love to walk for exercise indoors? Join the Walking Club! There is walking space available in the Crete Township Community Center for a low fee. Please call 708-722-1857 for more information.

Crete Kids Club- this is a before and after school program that includes schools in the area. This is for Ages 5-12. Please call 708-847-1039.

Community Garden- Funded by a grant from Will County, We Will Grow Community Program. This was headed up by Cheryl Albrecht, Trustee, Laura Hawkins, Trustee & Michael Liccar, Supervisor. The Crete Girl Scout Troop #75826 worked with us during planting and harvesting this past summer. We've planted a fall garden of herbs. All produce has been donated to the Crete Food pantry and Seniors in our area. Our Community Center Manager Jo Hansen and Senior volunteers contributed 100% to making our garden a huge success

Creative Cure Studios- They offer Healing with Art & Science classes for all ages. Contact Camillia at 773-494-4641 or book directly online at CreativeCureStudio.com.

Healing Compassionate Energy - They offer sessions by appointment at compassionateenergyhealing.com.

Crete Bulldogs Cheerleading held their Cheer practice at the Community Center on Tuesday through Thursday nights throughout September and October.

Crete Township welcomed the Crete Park District Karate & Line Dancing classes to be held at the Community Center during the repair of the Willard Wood Center.

Angels on Assignment and Crete Township Toy Drive and Distribution. Once again, Crete Township is working jointly with Angels on Assignment to do a New Unwrapped Toy Drive in Crete Township. The toy drive will take place from Dec 1st-10th. The toys will be disbursed through the Crete Monee School District and Private Schools Social in Crete Township. We will work through the Social Workers at these schools. The distribution will be on Sunday, December 13th. Please contact Cheryl Albrecht at 708-672-1500 for more information.

















Hello Seniors!



LAURA HAWKINS, TRUSTEE

Thank you to all that attended the Summer Beach themed picnic . It was so much fun! Jimboo's of Thornton barbecued on site for us. We had burgers, hot dogs, brats, Polish sausage, Italian sausage, chicken and salads. Of course the food was amazing. The fabulous centerpieces were made by JTP. Tastee Top brought the delicious ice cream sundaes and the talented Band Country Proud provided the entertainment.

December 10th is the Senior Christmas Party at the Crete Township Community Center 25930 S. Cottage Grove doors open at 11:30. We are serving at Noon. Please call township hall (708)672-8279 ext. 1 to reserve your ticket. Please talk to Patty, or Pam, do not leave a message.

Seniors/Fun Timers meet at the Crete Township Community Center 25930 S. Cottage Grove Tuesdays at 9 AM for games and Fridays at 9AM, Bingo starts at 10 AM. If you are looking to get out of the house, have some fun and make some friends please come join us!

The Fun Timers annual Car Truck sale will start up again in May of 2027, it is the 1st Saturday of the month from 10am-3pm. The Fun Timers are involved in many special events at the Community Center so if you want to be apart of an amazing group come check us out.

The Fun Timers would like to plan some trips so if you are interested, please call Township hall (708) 672-8279 ext. 1 and leave a message for Laura Hawkins.

Hope to see you soon, God Bless.

Laura Hawkins

Crete Township Trustee

CRETE TOWNSHIP PRESENTS

Annual Senior

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

CRETE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER
25930 S COTTAGE GROVE, CRETE IL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 AM • SERVING AT NOON

CALL TO RESERVE TICKETS

708-672-8279, OPTION 1

We cannot accept phone messages · Must speak with a representative
Must make your own reservation · No multiple reservations from caller other than spouse. Tickets must be picked up prior to the event.

CRETE TOWNSHIP

1367 WOOD STREET | CRETE, ILLINOIS

DIRECTORY

OFFICE PHONE	(708) 672-8279
OFFICE FAX	(708) 672-3327
TOWNSHIP EMAIL	INFO@CRETETOWNSHIP.COM
TOWNSHIP WEBSITE	WWW.CRETETOWNSHIP.COM
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LAURIE PENMAN	COLLECTOR
PATTY HANUS	OFFICE MANAGER
FRANK ELTON	TRUSTEE
CHERYL ALBRECHT	TRUSTEE
LAURA HAWKINS	TRUSTEE
TIFANNI STERDIVANT	TRUSTEE
CAROL MILLSAP	COMMUNITY CENTER COORDINATOR
CAROL.MILLSAP@CRETETOWNSHIP.COM	(708) 663-6690

CRETE TOWNSHIP SERVICES

Here are just a few of the services offered by Crete Township Hall:

- Voter Registration Services
- Temporary Handicap Placards
- Notary Services ($5 cash)
- Food Pantry (Wednesday from 9AM-11AM)
- Will County Assessor's Office on Site

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

Marriage licenses for Will County may be obtained at the Crete Township Office.
MONDAY - FRIDAY, 9 AM TO 3 PM

Identification Required to obtain a Marriage License:

- *Current form of I.D (Driver's License or State I.D, Passport or Military ID)*
- *Divorce papers or death certificate if other than first marriage.*

$35 MARRIAGE LICENSE

CASH ONLY. NO PERSONAL CHECKS, DEBIT OR CREDIT CARDS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY • MUST BE MARRIED IN WILL COUNTY

News from the Highway Commissioner



ANTHONY "TONY" RECUPITO, HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Hello to everyone in The Township. This past summer has been one for the record books, and I hope that you and your family stayed safe through all of the storms. Our crew is working diligently to prepare all our snowplowing and salting equipment for winter.

As of the writing of this article, our 2026 pavement maintenance project is in progress, which includes paving approximately 3.5 miles of roads, 5 miles of patching repairs, crack filling and striping.

In anticipation of the winter weather in the coming months, I would like to clarify the procedures that our plow truck drivers take when plowing and salting the roadways and what you can do to assist them.

First and foremost, the snowplows remove the snow from the roads by means of pushing it, not by picking it up. This means the snow is pushed to the sides of the road and some will inevitably end up in all driveways. When plowing your driveway, please do not leave the snow piles in the street as they can become a hazard, especially if they freeze. Second, it is important that any obstructions be removed from the roadway prior to snow plowing. This is imperative for the prevention of damage to private property and township vehicles. Obstructions can range anywhere from garbage and recycling bins to parked vehicles, trailers, boulders and basketball hoops. If any motorist hits one of these objects, you, the homeowner, may be responsible for the cost of any damage. Third, there is a 2" snowplow ordinance in effect. All vehicles are required to be off the roads until they are plowed. Finally, please stay back from all plow trucks and do not follow too closely as our drivers have a lot of things to contend with while plowing. Having a driver follow too closely to our plow trucks presents an inherent danger to our drivers and yourself.

We rely on our residents to assist us with another set of eyes, so if you see something that needs attention on any of the Township maintained roads in the unincorporated areas of The Township, please contact me at 708-672-7732 or via email at arecupito@cretetownship.com and let me know of your concerns.

Drive Defensively!

Anthony "Tony" Recupito

Highway Commissioner

From the Crete Township Assessor

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

- Martin Luther King Jr.



MARY MARGARET TAMEZ
ASSESSOR

Greetings! As we move into November and the beautiful colors of fall begin to fill our neighborhoods, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the year and all that we have accomplished together. Over the past several months, our office has continued working to provide accurate property information, assist property owners and find new ways to educate our community about the assessment process. I am especially excited to share an update on our Assessment Academy and the wonderful residents who have joined us for our first sessions.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the first two sessions of the Crete Township Assessment Academy! It has been wonderful to see residents come together to learn more about property assessments, exemptions and the work of the Assessor's Office.

These sessions were created to make property assessments easier to understand and to give residents an opportunity to ask questions in a comfortable, educational setting. Thank you to everyone who attended, participated and shared questions with us. Your interest helps us continue finding better ways to educate and serve the residents of Crete Township.

We are excited to continue the Assessment Academy with a "New Year Property Checkup."

In January, we will be hosting:
"Understanding Your Property Record Card"
Tuesday, January 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Did you know that your property record contains information that helps our office determine the value of your property? Things such as square footage, the number of stories, basement finish, garages, pools and other improvements can all play a role in the assessment process.

We encourage property owners to take a few minutes to review the information we have on file. If you notice something that is incorrect, please contact the Crete Township Assessor's Office. Keeping property records accurate is an important part of maintaining fair and equitable assessments. We will take a closer look at the property record card together and help you better understand the information it contains.

In March, we will host:
"How Comparable Sales Affect Your Assessment"
Tuesday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered how the value of your home is determined or why the sale of another home can affect your assessment?

Join me as we take a closer look at comparable sales and how they are used in the assessment process. We'll discuss what makes a property a good comparable, how differences between properties are considered, and why location, size, style, age and amenities all matter.

Please RSVP to the Crete Township Assessor's Office to reserve your spot.

Our goal is to make assessments easier to understand and give property owners the information they need to better understand their own assessment. I look forward to another year of working together to ensure that property records are accurate and that assessments are fair and equitable throughout our community.

As November comes to a close, I hope you have an opportunity to slow down, enjoy the beautiful fall season and spend time with the people who matter most. One of the things I appreciate most about Crete Township is the sense of community we share and the way our neighborhoods come together.

May your November be filled with warmth, gratitude and time with family and friends. From our office to your home, we wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving and a happy start to the holiday season.

Enjoy each day!

Mary Margaret Tamez
Crete Township Assessor

Crete Township Plan Commission

- by John Rzymski, Plan Commission

If you've driven through the Township lately, you've noticed more solar farms are being built. The latest four farms should be producing power by the end of the year to join the four already in use. Next year may see additional solar farms in the Township.

Earthrise Energy earlier this year obtained approval from Will County to construct a 260mw commercial scale solar farm in Washington, Monee, and Crete Townships, enough to power in excess of 30,000 homes. Earthrise also owns and plans to connect the solar power to the natural gas fired peaker plant in Crete. The company will lease 2,400 acres in widely scattered parcels of agricultural land for this development. A large number acres are in close proximity to land owned by the State of Illinois and designated for a third airport.

In Crete Township, 435 acres in 8 parcels are being leased. The 8 parcels are distributed throughout the Township and not all of the acreage will be covered by the solar panels. Some of the lease arrangements in Crete Township have coverage of less than 50% with the farm owner retaining control over the remainder.

In Will County at the end of 2025, 1,455 acres were approved for solar farms and will cover 0.67% of Will County's total farmland. In 2026 the number of solar farms has increased and new totals for the size of those actually approved and built will be available at the end of the year. However, as the supply of materials and incentives has decreased this year, the recent expansion may be over.

Crete Township and Will County have little input over the location and number of solar farms because state law has prevented much local control.

Generator Technologies Inc.
Gen-Tec
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Sales • Service
Installation
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generatortec.com

Steve Gibson
scgibson@generatortec.com

Generator Technologies, Inc.
1249 E. Burville Rd; #5
Crete, IL 60417-3601
708-672-6251
www.generatortec.com

There are many exemptions that you may qualify for!

General Homestead Exemption

Do you live on the property, a named owner on the deed, and it is your principal residence? You qualify! This exemption is added and removed by our office, there is no form. ALWAYS check your property tax bill to make sure you have it if you qualify.

Disabled Person Exemption

Are you collecting disability? You qualify! Please bring in the proof of disability or come to the office to get the form for the doctor to fill out for the proof and we will assist you with the exemption form.

Senior Homestead Exemption

Do you turn 65 this year and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in your drivers license or ID for proof of age and we will assist you in the application.

Senior Freeze Exemption

Are you 65 and have a total household income of less than ***$65,000?*** You qualify! The income level was increased from $55,000 to $65,000 for the 2018 assessment year! Bring in your federal income tax form or any forms you would normally take to have your income taxes done if you no longer meet the filing requirements. We will have the forms in our office after April 1st and we can assist you in filling out the form.

Disabled Veteran

Are you a Veteran with at least 30% service-connected disability through the Department of Veterans Affairs and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in a copy of your DD 214 as well as the proof of disability for the current year you are applying for that lists your percentage of disability and we will assist you in filling out the form.

PIPP

(Percentage of income payment plan)

LIHEAP
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

Located at Crete Township 1367 Wood St., Crete, IL 60417
No appointment required!

The Low Income Assistance Program and Percentage of Income Payment Plan helps income-eligible households pay home energy bills whose 30 day gross income is at 150% of the poverty level. You will have a choice depending on your household situation. If you would like to enroll in LIHEAP or the PIPP program, both programs will be explained to you at the time of registration

Applications will be taken at Crete Township
from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

FRIDAY DECEMBER 04, 2026

Listed below is the basic information that is needed to take an application
(this may not be all the documentation that is needed, so this does not guarantee that your application will be taken.)

1.) Social Security Card for everyone in household
2.) ID or Drivers License
3.) 30 Days proof of income for all household members
4.) Any household member age 18 or over need proof they are not receiving benefits from DHS (Public AID) and IDES (Unemployment)
5.) Gas and Electric Bill
6.) Printout of benefits received from agencies (ex: Food Stamps, Medical Card, TANF, General Assistance, Veterans Assistance, Social Security, etc.)
7.) Mortgage statement and tax bill or Deed and tax bill needed if applying for Furnace assistance.

Crete Township Youth News



TIFANNI STERDIVANT, TRUSTEE

As Fall rolls in we, happy to report, we made a $500 donation to the Crete Band Boosters.

We are looking to apply for grants for youth programs. We will be applying to AmeriCorps. If you are interested to help with grant writing and applications, please let us know.

We are working with MYTT to schedule the next round of robotics workshops. Please be on the lookout for updates.

We will visit St. James Nursing Home in December. We will collect donations for holiday gifts for the Seniors as the Youth plan to share the Holiday Sprit.

Township Youth will march in the Crete Country Christmas Parade, please let us know if you would like to join us.

We are looking for volunteers, email: TSterdivant@CreteTownship.com.

Tifanni Sterdivant
Crete Township Trustee

SPACE TO CELEBRATE. ROOM TO GROW.
Make it happen here!
CRETE TOWNSHIP
COMMUNITY CENTER



25930 S. Cottage Grove Ave.
Crete, IL 60417

Special Events & Parties | Seminars & Presentations
Temporary or Permanent Office Space
Find the space that fits your needs.

LET'S PLAN YOUR NEXT BOOKING!
Community Center Coordinator Carol Milsap
708-722-1857
carol.milsap@cretetownship.com



"WILL-RIDE" DIAL-A-RIDE PROGRAM

Serving Crete Township Senior Citizens and Residents with Disabilities who need transportation to ***doctor visits, therapy, and medical treatments.***

WILL RIDE

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE PROGRAM?
Senior Citizens (60 years of age and older), Residents with a disability.

REGISTRATION FOR "WILL-RIDE"
In order to become eligible for the program, you must sign up with your Township. Contact the Crete Township Office at 1367 Wood Street, Crete, IL 60417, (708) 672-8279.

ARRANGING FOR YOUR RIDE
Contact the call center at least 24 hours in advance with the following information:
1.) Home Address.
2.) Address of Destination.
3.) The TIME of your appointment.
4.) Approximate time for return trip pickup.
5.) If you are on Medicaid, please have your number available.
6.) Alert the Call Center to any special mobility needs you may have, i.e.: wheelchair assistance, help from your door, etc.
7.) Let the Call Center know if you will have a caretaker with you. (Caretakers ride at no charge.)

CALL CENTER HOURS FOR SCHEDULING A RIDE (800) 244-4410
Monday - Friday 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please call at least 24 hours in advance

BUSES OPERATE
Monday - Friday 6:00 AM to 5:00 PM.
Weekend & Holiday hours are not available

RIDES WITHIN YOUR TOWNSHIP: $2 one way or $4 round trip
RIDES OUTSIDE YOUR TOWNSHIP: $4 one way or $8 round trip

Tim Miller and Ken Miller Retire

- by Michael J. Liccar



- Supervisor Liccar, Tim Miller, and Highway Commissioner Recupito



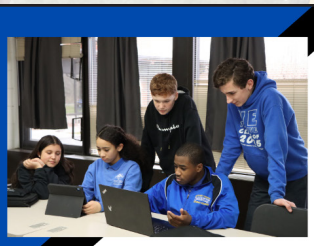
- Supervisor Liccar, Ken Miller, and Highway Commissioner Recupito

Brothers Tim & Ken Miller recently retired from the Crete Township Road District. Both were valuable, long-time Crete Township employees who will be sorely missed.

Ken began his career with the Road District on May 1, 1991 and retired on July 1, 2026.

Tim has the distinction of being the longest serving employee of Crete Township with a tenure that began on February 21, 1984 until his retirement on September 13, 2026. He also served on the Board of the Crete Township Fire Protection District for over 35 years, including over 20 years as President.

Both men received commendations from the Crete Township Board of Trustees for their faithful and exceptional service to the people of Crete Township. Best wishes to Tim and Ken on your well-earned retirement!



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- Catholic Values
- Multiage
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Call today to see all we have to offer your family!

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(708) 672-3093

Crete Township Launches Youth Fishing Program

- by Michael J. Liccar



Crete Township launched its new Youth Fishing program for ages 5-15 at our fishing pond located at the Crete Township Community Center campus.

This "catch and release" program teaches the basics of fishing, including: safety, rod & reel setup and maintenance, casting and baiting. Many thanks to our expert angler volunteers: Gene Borkowski, Steve Clark, Randy Dunlap, Al Mack, Bob Walter and Jim Walters.

Additional stock has been added to the fishing pond. We will be offering the program again next year, please look for announcements on the Crete Township Community Center Facebook and Township website pages (https://www.cretetownship.com/)

Crete Township New Community Garden Program

- by Michael J. Liccar



- Trustee Cheryl Albrecht, Crete Food Pantry President Becca Wolfe & Trustee Laura Hawkins

Crete Township was awarded a grant from the "We Will Grow Community Program" which is administered by Will County Land Use Community Development Division. This grant, along with generous donations from Most Feed, Bultema's Green House and Chicago Heights Steel, allowed us to develop, at no cost to the Township, a new community garden located at the Crete Township Community Center.

The garden program is led by Trustees Cheryl Albrecht and Laura Hawkins with the program supervised by Community Center Office Manager Jo Hansen and exterior work supervised by Supervisor of Maintenance Bob Walters. Many thanks to our hard-working volunteers including: Girl Scout Troop #75826, Larry Barker, Dabion Couch and the Crete Township Fun Timers.

The initial harvest included various types of peppers, tomatoes, eggplant, cauliflower and a variety of herbs. All produce from the Community Garden are donated to the Crete Food Pantry. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities, please contact Jo Hansen at jo.hansen@cretetownship.com or 708-722-1857.

Crete Lions Club

Crete Lions Club will simplify your live tree purchase by setting up a NEW Fraser Fir Tree lot by their Recycle Center at 1215 Douglas Lane in Crete. The tree sale kickoff will be a new Hometown Holiday Celebration to be held on Saturday, Nov 28 from NOON until 3 PM. Join us to purchase the perfect 6-8 foot tree for $75, then enjoy a free hot chocolate bar, make a free ornament, take pictures with our Christmas Lion, play pin the nose on the snowman and enjoy a round of Chimney Christmas Bean Bags. Don't want to purchase a fancy Fraser Fir tree? Bring the family and enjoy the hot chocolate bar for $3. The crafts and games are free for all to enjoy!

A limited number of trees will be available on a first come, first serve basis. The Crete Lions Club is accepting preorders now. Please email CreteLionsClub1215Douglas@Gmail.com and we will send you an order form. Payment must be made to save a tree. Tree pick up will be available Nov 28 & 29 from NOON until 3 PM and Nov 30th from 5 – 7 PM at the Lions Recycle Center, 1215 Douglas Lane in Crete. (You will be responsible for loading the tree in or on your car so come prepared.) Additional purchase and pick up times will be announced if trees remain.

Another addition to the Christmas magic will be the Crete Lions Fraser Fir Forest, located on Exchange Street in front of Crete United Methodist Church. Local Businesses are encouraged to Email CreteLionsClub1215Douglas@Gmail.com to order your 3-5 foot tree for $50. Payment will save your tree and a spot in the forest. Crete Lions will put up the tree and secure it to a post. You decorate the tree with battery powered lights and ornaments by Dec 4th. Don't forget a sign for all the visitors to see! (Sign size is limited to 17"x13".) Only 20 spots are available so save your spot to spread Christmas cheer! Decorations must be removed by January 2, 2027, or they will be recycled.

Profits from the tree sales will be donated to local nonprofit groups.

The **Crete Township Newsletter** is provided **free of charge** to our residents.
It is substantially funded by our local businesses who advertise.

Please support these local businesses as often as you can.

Thank you

Crete F-Men News

- by Aaron DaCorte

The Crete F-Men would like to thank our community partners for your continued support of our organization. Thank you to all the local businesses and members of the community for your financial support and assistance to make our events possible!

NIGHTMARE IN CRETE HAUNTED HAYRIDE!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our annual haunted event a great success! This was our 37th year of bringing scares, thrills, and chills to our community and the support we receive year after year makes all the hard work worth it! We'll see you next year!

CRETE COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Join us on December 4, 2026 from 5pm to close at the Crete Country Christmas Lodge Tinseltown Tavern! We'll be serving up Christmas Spirits and enjoying the Crete Country Christmas annual celebration.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

The Crete F-Men Easter Egg Hunt returns this spring on Saturday, March 27th, 2027! Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering or donating to help continue this great local tradition which is only made possible every year by the help of our local businesses and volunteers. For more information, contact Howard Kaye: (708) 921-6768

CRETE GUN CLUB

The Crete Gun Club meets at the Crete F-Men Hall (1962 West Exchange St. Crete) on the first Monday of every month at 7PM. The public is always welcome to attend as we discuss firearm safety, legislation, skill development, and shooting events. We're always looking for new members! Club sponsored concealed carry classes are also available. For more information, check out our new website at cretegunclub.net!



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Crete Park District

- by Jamie Healy

Parade of Lights Watch Party Raffle

Purchase raffle tickets for $10 each for your chance to win the ultimate watch party for up to 25 people for the Parade of Lights at Crete Country Christmas! Enjoy time at Crete Park on Main with your friends and family before and during the Parade of Lights. You can bring in food and drinks (including alcohol), enjoy private indoor bathrooms, 4 reserved parking spots and curbside seating for the parade. Tickets can be purchased at 737 W. Exchange or online at cretepark.com until November 15.

Memorial Lights

Purchase a light in memory of a loved one. At the ceremony, each name will be read just before the tree lighting. Lights are $5 each. The ceremony will be held at the corner of Main & Exchange on Thursday, December 3 at 5:30pm.

Winter Break Camp - December 21-30, 2026

Join your friends at the Crete Park District during your break from school. We will celebrate the holiday and winter season in style with games, crafts, a movie, cooking and more! Fee: $300

Crete Park Pals

- by Jamie Healy

Breakfast with the Grinch at Crete Country Christmas

Crete Park Pals
ESTABLISHED IN 2011

You will be entertained by the comedic antics of the Grinch while you dine on a catered breakfast from Smokey Jo's! Crafts for the kids and photo ops are included. Each person eating breakfast must be registered. Children must be accompanied by an adult. The fi rst seating is reserved for our sensory-sensitive guests. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used by the Park pals to fulfi ll their pledge to the Park District to fund $50K of the new outdoor Fitness Court at Swiss Valley Park.

Date: Saturday, December 5, 2026
Cost: $20 per person
Time: 3 seating times to choose from 9:00 (sensory friendly), 9:30 and 10:00am
Location: Crete Country Christmas Tent on Cass St.

Crete Area Chamber of Commerce

- by Jamie Healy



Crete Country Christmas – December 3 - 8, 2026

Crete Area Chamber of Commerce EST. 1976

For the full schedule of events, times, locations and more, visit our website at cretecountrychristmas.com and follow us on Facebook @ cretecountrychristmas and Instagram @cretecountrychristmas_official

Thursday, December 3 @ 5:30pm
-Tree Lighting Ceremony
-Memorial Lights with Crete
-Park District
-Community Christmas Carol
-Sing-along
-S'mores & hot chocolate truck
-Bring your own chair
-Corner of Main & Exchange

Friday, December 4 @ 5-7pm
-Santa Vists at the Gazebo @ 6-8pm
- Libido Disco Circus @ 8:30 - 11pm

Saturday, December 5
-8am - Grinch 5K
-9am - Breakfast with the Grinch
-9am - Kris Kringle Market
-11am - Reindog Contest
-2-5pm - Santa Visits at the Gazebo
-6pm - Parade of Lights
Entertainment
-1-3pm Frank Rossi
-4-5pm Various School Groups
-6:45 - 8:30pm Whiskey Road
-9-11pm Run Forest Run

Sunday, December 6
10am - 1pm
Bloody Mary BINGO

Monday, December 7 & Tuesday, December 8 @ 5:00 pm
-Santa Sleigh Parade
-Collecting non-perishables for the Crete Food Panty and new, unwrapped toys for Angels on Assignment.

View routes and LIVE GPS tracker at cretecountrychristmas.com

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Crete Community Runners Association Invites the Community to the Fourth Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot! - by Jessica Staley



Start Thanksgiving with a Step in the Right Direction!

Thanksgiving is a time for family, community and giving back, and the **Crete Community Runners Association** is bringing all three together for the Fourth Annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot on Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at Heritage Park in Crete, Illinois.

This free, family-friendly event is open to **walkers and runners of all ages, abilities and paces.** Whether you're a longtime runner, a casual walker, bringing the whole family or simply looking for a fun way to start your Thanksgiving morning, everyone is invited to join us.

While our name may say "runners," our mission goes far beyond running. The Crete Community Runners Association is a growing local nonprofit focused on **health, wellness and connection through movement.** We believe staying active should be accessible, welcoming and most importantly, fun. Whether you walk, jog, run or simply want to get out and move, there is a place for you in our community.

The Turkey Trot is also about giving back to the community that has supported us. This year's event will again be collecting non-perishable goods for the **Crete Food Pantry**, helping support local individuals and families during the holiday season. Participants will have the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving by not only getting active but also making a difference close to home.

As we celebrate our fourth year, we want to take a moment to thank the **Village of Crete and Crete Township** for embracing the Turkey Trot and supporting the Crete Community Runners Association over the years. We are grateful for the volunteers, local businesses, families, friends and community members who continue to help make events like this possible.

So, before the turkey goes in the oven and the Thanksgiving festivities begin, grab your family, friends and walking or running shoes and join us at Heritage Park. **There's no need to be fast, and no need to be a runner. Just come ready to move, have fun and give back.**

Sign up here: runsignup.com/cretetrot2026
Thursday, November 26, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. @ Heritage Park | Crete, Illinois
Free • All Ages • Walkers & Runners Welcome
Supporting the Crete Food Pantry. Start your Thanksgiving with the CCRA, helping our community get stronger with every stride.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Crete Community Runners Association
-Jessica Staley, President
-Chris Manola, VP of Community Engagement
-Laura Gavin Breier, Secretary
-Mary Ruminski, Treasurer
-Josh Zimmerman, Social Media Manager
-Candace Langellier, Board Member



SCAN QR CODE



Crete Township Fire Protection District

- by Chief Donald R Radtke Jr

As autumn arrives and temperatures drop, we naturally spend more time keeping our homes warm and cozy. However, the season also brings unique fire and safety hazards. Taking a few proactive steps now can keep your household safe throughout the season.

Clear the Perimeter

Autumn leaves are beautiful, but they quickly turn into dry fuel. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), brush, grass, and wildland fires account for hundreds of thousands of outside fires every year. Keep the area around your home clean by clearing dead leaves, twigs, and overgrown vegetation from your roof, gutters, and foundation. Store firewood at least 30 feet away from your home, and ensure that dried debris does not accumulate under decks or porches where a stray spark could ignite it.

Test Your Detectors

The change of seasons is the perfect reminder to check your home's early warning systems. Change the batteries in all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors, even if they seem to be working fine. Data from the NFPA shows that the fatality rate is 60% lower in homes with working smoke alarms. Test each unit by pressing the test button, and verify the manufacture date on the back; most detectors need to be completely replaced every 5 to 10 years. We also recommend when looking for a new CO detector, look for a device that includes a digital readout display, which helps determine if you are actually having an emergency, or possibly a defective or dirty unit.

Use Generators Safely

As we all know too well as of lately, storms can bring unexpected power outages, leading many neighbors to power up portable generators. However, safety must come first: one portable generator produces the same amount of carbon monoxide as hundreds of cars, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). Because the CDC reports that over 400 Americans die each year from accidental CO poisoning not linked to fires, never run a generator inside a home, garage, basement, or crawlspace. Always operate your generator outdoors, keeping it at least 20 feet away from windows, doors, and vents to prevent deadly, odorless fumes from seeping inside.

Inspect Your Chimney

Before lighting the first fire of the season, ensure your fireplace is safe to use. According to NFPA data, failure to clean equipment—primarily creosote buildup in chimneys—is the leading cause of home heating fires. Chimney and fireplace fires account for around 30% of all home heating fires. Creosote is a highly flammable byproduct of burning wood that accumulates inside the flue. Have your chimney inspected and swept annually by a qualified professional to eliminate this dangerous hazard.

Practice Space Heater Safety

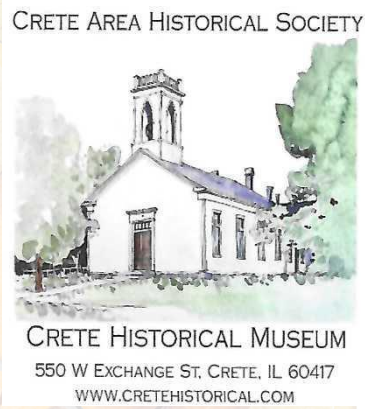
Portable space heaters are a convenient way to warm a chilly room, but they require strict vigilance. The NFPA reports that space heaters account for more than 70% of all home heating fire deaths. The leading cause of these fatal fires is placing the heater too close to items that can burn, such as curtains, furniture, or bedding. Always follow the "3-foot rule" by keeping all flammable materials at least three feet away from any heat source. Additionally, always plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet rather than an extension cord or power strip, which can easily overheat and trigger an electrical fire.

Thank you!

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our residents for their incredible support during an exceptionally busy summer. Whether through local tax assessments, kind words, or simple courtesies like giving our first responders room to work safely on the roadways, your contributions make it possible for the members of the Crete Township Fire Protection District to perform their duties. Every member of our department truly appreciates this community support, and we strive to repay that trust through rigorous training and high proficiency to serve you quickly, safely, and efficiently. We look forward to a much calmer 2027 together!



Crete Area Historical Society



It's been a busy Summer at the Crete Area Historical Society, and in the Museum.

We participated in the Memorial Day Service at the Park with a tribute to William Hewes, and again a few days later, at the Crete Cemetery. Mr. Hewes is a Revolutionary War soldier who is buried in the Crete Cemetery. A new plaque commemorating him was placed at his grave by the DAR, with a short program following in the Museum.

The Crete Woman's Club also offered a stop at the Museum during their annual Garden Walk, and we participated in a couple local Underground Railroad programs and events in June.

Progress on the Museum has been slow and steady. A new waterline was installed under the building from the Depot section to the rear area of the Church.

A new pad was poured for re-homing of the original Congregational Church bell, as well as a mounting pad for an old buggy step, both of which are on either side of the front steps. Our thanks to Crete Township government for taking such good care of the bell until it could be returned to its home.Sewer lines have been repaired and lined for our future plumbing needs.

A new foundation and floor deck has been installed in the south portion of the Church, complete with moisture barrier, insulation and pest control. Plumbing work and the installation of a new HVAC system is up next.

You can only imagine the amount repairs needed on a building that was built in 1853.

WTTW, Chicago's Public Television station, sent a team out with Goeffrey Baer as they are producing a documentary on the South Suburbs, including Crete, which is due to air in Fall of 2027. A segment that may be used in the finished program was filmed inside the Church.

A couple other projects we are currently working on with Crete Township, are to erect an historical marker to recognize the Native American Indians that lived here for centuries before us, and also to install a permanent timeline display in the Crete Township Community Center. We have also recently completed work on cleaning up and refurbishing the oldest cemetery in eastern Will County.

Crete Area Historical Society continues to hold our monthly meetings with various topic presentations on the 3rd Thursday each month. We currently meet at the Township Hall on Wood St. in Crete at 6:30PM. Please feel free to join us. We are always seeking new members.

CAHS is currently looking for a Recording Secretary and another Board member, or two.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone in the Crete Community for your continued interest and support.



Sound Meditation Sessions at the Crete Township Community Center: Creating Space for Stillness

- by Chris Manola

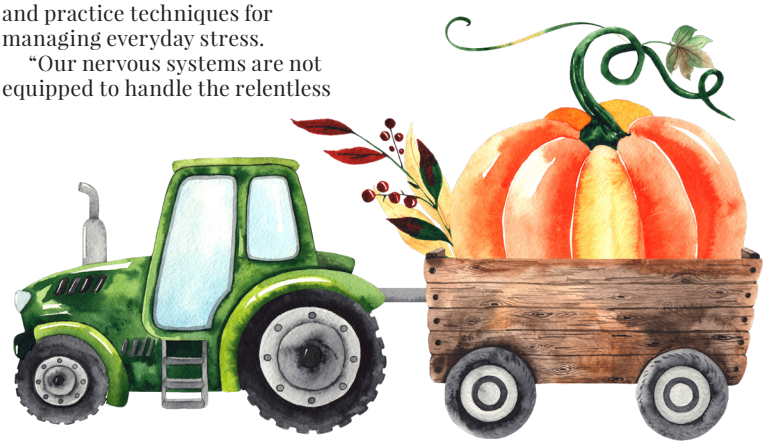
On the last Monday of each month, Chris Manola invites everyone to step away from their busy routines for an hour and become still.

Through Humble Warrior Yoga, Chris leads guided sound meditation and breath work sessions from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Crete Township Community Center. Crystal singing bowls, intentional breathing and guided meditation are used to create an environment where participants can slow down, settle their attention and practice techniques for managing everyday stress.

"Our nervous systems are not equipped to handle the relentless demands of modern life," Chris says.

Her sessions are grounded in a straightforward idea. Peace should not be something people experience only when everything else stops. It can be practiced and carried into work, relationships and ordinary moments.

Along with her monthly meditation sessions, Chris is a certified yoga instructor, teaching yoga every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Crete Park on Main, located at 1374 Main Street in Crete.



Her work reflects the philosophy behind Humble Warrior Yoga, where wellness is approached as a balance between inner strength and deep peace.

Chris is also a founding member of the Crete Community Runners Association and serves on the Board of Directors for several Crete nonprofit organizations, extending the same community-minded approach she brings to her wellness work.

"Your inner peace can transform the world," she says.

Learn More

Chris Manola's sound meditation sessions are held on the last Monday of each month from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Crete Township Community Center, 25930 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Crete, Illinois. Call 708.722.1857 and leave a message to register. The classes are offered on a donation basis to make them accessible to everyone in the community.

Follow Humble Warrior Yoga on Facebook.

Crete Pantry

- by Becca Wolfe



Crete Pantry continues to serve our over 400 guests every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 11 :00 AM.

However, our shelves in the basement are empty. We anticipate your generosity will help us fill those shelves with food drives during the Holidays.

Thank you for your continued monetary and food donations. We could not do this without you!



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