

CRETE TOWNSHIP

Newsletter

FROM THE SUPERVISOR **MICHAEL J. LICCAR**

“If you don’t like the road you’re walking, start paving another one.” - Dolly Parton



Happy Fall! It's hard to believe we are already in the last quarter of the year. There's a lot going on at Crete Township. Here are some quick updates:

COMMUNITY CENTER UPDATES

“Prepping the Building”
Much time and effort has been spent updating and upgrading the Community Center Building. As much of the building was unused during the COVID period through October 2024 (when we acquired the building), a great deal of cleanup, repairs, disposing and replacement of broken equipment as well as the clear-out of brush and leveling of the surrounding land has taken place. Many thanks to the young men and women of Crete-Monee High School and the Youth Group of Crete Church as well as our Senior Volunteers for your hard work in helping us organize and clear out unused and

broken furniture and equipment, the remainder of which we sold during a public auction conducted on August 9th. Also, our sincere thanks to volunteers Larry Barker and Brian Wood for their skilled design and construction of our wonderful Main Stage at the Community Center.

COMMUNITY CENTER COORDINATOR

We are pleased to welcome Carol Millsap as Community Center Coordinator. Carol is a proven community leader with over 35 years' experience with many of our area civic and faith-based organizations, as well as School District 201-U. Welcome Carol!

FUN-TIMERS

Under the direction of Trustee Laura Hawkins, a number of our senior volunteers have teamed up to form the new “Crete Township Fun Timers” group. This group has

been active in developing social and entertainment events and is open to all Crete Township seniors.

ON THE MOVE

The “On the Move” women's fitness center has been quite popular with over 70 members thus far. The program features a 30-minute total body workout circuit hydraulic machine resistance, wellness mats, metabolic recovery boards, stretching station, SECA health scale, and OMRON fat analyzer. For more information, please get in touch with Coordinator Sandy Cortelloni at 708-515-4494 or sandy.cortelloni@cretetownship.com

CRETE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY DISPLAYS

The Crete Area Historical Society has included many wonderful and informative displays, including a new timeline celebrating Crete Township's rich history. In addition, we also feature a fully refurbished original Steger piano built in 1910. Please come out to enjoy these historical items.

OTHER INITIATIVES

The Crete Township Board approved the appointment of a new Community Center Advisory Council, which will be evaluating, planning and making recommendations to the Board about developing usage, events and curriculum for the Community Center.

The Community Center has rooms available for usage. For availability and pricing, please contact Carol Millsap at 708-722-1857 or carol.millsap@cretetownship.com

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Crete Township has been actively working on available grants and

financial support for the Community Center initiatives. One project is to develop a commercial kitchen for the Center for which we have thus far received donations of kitchen equipment from Will County and others.

We will also be soon initiating a “memorial bricks” program which would offer engraved bricks to honor supporters and their loved ones which will be displayed at the Community Center.

Moreover, the Crete Township Board passed a resolution to proceed with the formation of a new, independently operated, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation named “Friends of the Crete Township Community” to allow for tax-deductible donations and to expand the availability of possible grants.

JO HANSEN, ASSOCIATE OFFICE MANAGER

We are pleased to welcome Jo Hansen as Associate Office Manager. Jo has over 25 years' experience in financial services and received her B.S. in Accounting from Eastern Illinois University. Jo has been an active volunteer with the Crete Area Historical Society as well as the Crete Lions Club. Welcome Jo!

Many more updates follow in this issue. As always, please feel free to contact us if we can be of service.

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 we will be getting cooler weather in the near future. The Clerk's Office facilitated the publication of the Treasurer's report and the

submission to the State of Illinois Comptroller's Office in Springfield. 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 Buitter
Crete Township Clerk

Happy Summer!



CHERYL ALBRECHT,
TRUSTEE

The Holiday Season is upon us! Crete Township is once again joining with Angels on Assignment for our ANNUAL NEW TOY DRIVE! The toy drive will run from December 1st-10th! There

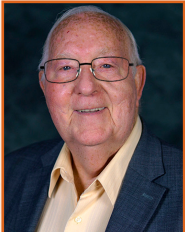
toys will be distributed on SUNDAY-DECEMBER 14th-11:00-3:00 at the Crete Community Center. Parents & Guardians can PURCHASE TOYS FOR \$1 EACH. Max of 5 toys per child. There will be a wrapping station for parents to wrap their gifts for free. We hope to have other agencies attend if possible. This will be for families in the Crete Monee School District and residents of Crete Township ONLY.

Please call the Crete Township Hall at 708-672-8279, Press 1. Please leave your name and phone number and Cheryl Albrecht will get back to you for your information. Thank you!

Cheryl Albrecht
Crete Township Trustee

will be drop off bins at The Crete Community Center, The Crete Township Hall, all 3 Crete Township Fire Departments & the Crete Public Library.
Something NEW THIS YEAR....all

Building & Grounds



FRANK ELTON,
TRUSTEE

Summer is over, and we're pleased to report that we only needed to replace three air conditioning units this season. Much of our recent work has focused on landscaping. We have trimmed

trees, shrubbery, and grass so the pond is now visible from the parking lot. The parking lot has also been seal-coated and striped.



- Three party rooms available to rent for your next celebration.

We are currently working on acquiring equipment for the new kitchen. It will include two hoods with Ansul systems, a six-burner stove, a convection oven, sinks, a dishwasher, and a refrigerator. All of this equipment was generously donated to Crete Township. God willing, we hope to have the kitchen fully operational within the next six to eight months.

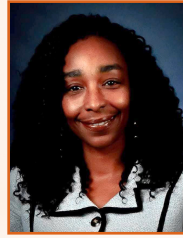
At present, we have three rooms available for parties, and there is still more work to be done in the new community center. In our Wood Street office, we've replaced the ceiling fans and are currently working on replacing a steel outside door.

At the end of October, we will be changing all filters and inspecting furnaces in preparation for winter at both facilities. Our new electronic sign for the community center is scheduled to be installed in late October or early November.

God Bless,

Frank Elton
Crete Township Trustee

Youth & Families



TIFANNI STERDIVANT,
TRUSTEE

Greetings: The Crete Youth Commission participated in the Lions Club Halloween event on October 25, 2025. Thank you to all who supported. As we welcome our new Community Center Coordinator, Carol Milsap, we are gathering recommendations of Advisory Council Members from the community. If you are interested or would like to recommend someone, please let us know.

We have purchased games, tech activities and received donations of

sporting equipment.

We are also seeking donations of musical instruments for our newly created music program.

Teen and parent volunteers are needed. Community Service hours are available from CM2011.

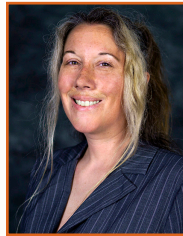
Join us in setting up and decorating the youth room from November 15 through December 31st. We will conduct community center tours to help introduce the community to our new center.

Lastly, the Youth Commission will create, wrap and donate gifts to the Seniors for the Holidays. Contact us to participate:

T.Sterdivant@CreteTownship.com

Tifanni Sterdivant
Crete Township Trustee

Hello Seniors!



LAURA HAWKINS,
TRUSTEE

Thanks to all that attended the annual picnic. It was catered by Jimbooo's they grilled outside. We had chicken, brats, Italian sausage, hamburgers, taco salad, and broasted

potatoes. Country Proud entertained us and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Maday's for donating the beautiful flower arrangements.

Christmas Party is December 18th so call town hall to reserve your ticket (708)672-8279 extension 1 talk to Patty, Pam or Jo, do not leave a message.

There is a group called the Fun-Timers that hang out at the Crete Township Community Center Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at 9am. Monday is coffee and conversation, Tuesday is games and Friday is Bingo. Come have some fun and enjoy your community center. We have a lot going on!

Catholic Charities has free classes all you have to do is sign up and show up. We have Bingocize with Taneejah call (815)724-1168 ext. 6721 to join on Mondays 10:30 am to 11:30am now through December 5th. On Tuesdays we have the Fit and Strong program with Amber call (815)221-6013 ext. 6723 now through October 21st 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Community Center 25930 S. Cottage Grove. Pinochle is played on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM. Call Townhall to sign up (708)672-8279 option one and leave a message for Michael Liccar.

Crocheting with Marlene at the Township hall 1367 Wood Street on Mondays is the advanced class at 7pm - 8pm \$5 fee. Tuesdays are the beginner classes 7pm-8pm \$5 fee.

If you would like to speak to me or make suggestions please come see me at the Crete Township Community Center 25930 S. Cottage Grove on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays at 9am. I am looking forward to speaking with you.

Thank you and God bless,

Laura Hawkins
Crete Township Trustee

BORED?

Feeling Left Out or Ignored?

Crete Township Seniors -

FUN TIMERS

- are looking for you!

We meet on Mondays at 9AM and have coffee and great conversation...

On Tuesdays we meet at 9AM, have coffee and more great conversation, then we play games...

Then on Fridays, we meet at 9AM(see a pattern?), conversation, and at 10AM we start our weekly Bingo party with prizes. Guests arrive (everyone is welcome) and all have a great time!

If you think you would like to join a group of fun loving seniors like yourself and stop waiting for life to pass you by, come meet us and find out what you've been missing! We'd love to see you!

Township Community Center, 25930 S Cottage Grove Ave.



News from the Highway Commissioner



ANTHONY "TONY" RECUPITO, HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Hello to everyone in The Township. I hope your year has been going well. Our crew is working diligently to prepare all our snowplowing and salting equipment for whatever comes our way this winter.

In our continuing effort to keep water off our streets, our crew replaced dozens of culverts and reworked many ditches.

Our 2025 pavement maintenance project was recently completed, which included paving approximately 2.75 miles of roads, patching various areas, crack filling and refreshing all our road striping.

As many of you are aware, the Illinois Department of Transportation intersection improvements on IL RTE 394 and Burville Road were substantially completed several weeks back and the intersection is now open to traffic.

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 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



CRETE TOWNSHIP

1367 WOOD STREET, CRETE, IL 60417

DIRECTORY

OFFICE PHONE.....	(708) 672-8279
OFFICE FAX.....	(708) 672-3327
TOWNSHIP EMAIL.....	INFO@CRETETOWNSHIP.COM
TOWNSHIP WEBSITE.....	WWW.CRETETOWNSHIP.COM
MICHAEL J. LICCAR.....	SUPERVISOR
ANTHONY RECUPITO.....	HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
ARECUPITO@CRETETOWNSHIP.COM.....	(708) 672-7732
MARY MARGARET TAMEZ.....	ASSESSOR
JIM BUITER.....	CLERK
LAURIE PENMAN.....	COLLECTOR
PATTY HANUS.....	OFFICE MANAGER
FRANK ELTON.....	TRUSTEE
CHERYL ALBRECHT.....	TRUSTEE
LAURA HAWKINS.....	TRUSTEE
TIFANNI STERDIVANT.....	TRUSTEE

CRETE TOWNSHIP SERVICES

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

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

MARRIAGE LICENSE INFORMATION

Marriage Licenses for Will County may be obtained at the Crete Township Office, Monday thru Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM.

MARRIAGE LICENSE = \$35.00 for issuing a marriage license.

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

MUST BE MARRIED IN WILL COUNTY

CASH ONLY. No personal checks, debit or credit cards!

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.



LOOKING FOR SOME FUN?

We play Bingo every Friday!

Come out to the new Township Community Center and join our seniors

The Fun Timers

BINGO STARTS AT 10 AM

Good times with great company!

25930 S. Cottage Grove Ave.



CRETE TOWNSHIP PRESENTS

ANNUAL SENIOR Luncheon

Thursday, December 18

CALL TO RESERVE TICKET
708-672-8279 OPTION 1

CRETE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY CENTER • 25930 S COTTAGE GROVE, CRETE IL

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.

From the Crete Township Assessor



MARY MARGARET TAMEZ
ASSESSOR

Hello neighbors, We know property assessments and taxes aren't usually anyone's favorite topic — but they affect all of us here in Crete Township. Our goal is to make the process

fair, clear, and approachable. We're not just an office down the road — we're your neighbors, and we're here to help you understand how everything works.

That's why we've put together this series: "Top 5 Questions Answered." Each issue, we'll tackle the questions we hear most often, in plain language, so you feel informed and confident about your property assessment.

Let's get started with the five questions we hear more than any others.

Top 5 Questions About Property Assessments — Answered!

Do you decide how much tax I pay? No — that part isn't up to us. The Crete Township Assessor's Office figures out your property's value. Tax rates are set by local schools, the village, the county, and other taxing bodies. Your tax bill is simply your property's value

Mosquito Abatement Season

Mosquito abatement season has come to a close and the equipment and truck are now being prepared for the winter and will be ready for next year's spraying season.



Joe Ojeda serves as the Crete Township Mosquito Abatement Applicator. A Crete Township resident, Joe is licensed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and has many years of experience as he also owns and operates his own pest control business. Joe can be reached at joe.ojeda@cretetownship.com or by contacting the Township Office at 708-672-8279, extension 1.

multiplied by those rates. Think of us as the "measuring stick," not the ones sending the bill.

How often do you look at my property value? Every year, we review properties in Crete Township based on the changes in the market to make sure values stay fair. Even if you haven't changed a thing in your home, the market around you might have. If houses nearby are selling higher, your value may shift too.

If I fix up my home, will my taxes go up? It depends. Adding a garage, finishing a basement, or building an addition? That can raise your value. But normal upkeep — like painting, replacing a roof, or fixing things that wear out — usually doesn't. Taking care of your home shouldn't feel like a penalty.

What if I don't agree with my assessment? You can appeal it. Every year in August there's a window of time to file an appeal through the Will County Board of Review. You'll need some info to back it up — like sales of similar homes in your neighborhood — but we're happy to point you in the right direction.

Are there any tax breaks I can get? Yes, and it's always worth checking. Many Crete Township residents qualify for

exemptions, like the General Homestead Exemption, Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption, or special programs for veterans or people with disabilities. These can lower the taxable portion of your property's value.

A Final Word from the Crete Township Assessor's Office

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We truly appreciate the chance to serve the residents of Crete Township and to keep you informed about how property assessments work. Remember — we're always just a phone call, a visit, or a click away if you have questions. No matter how big or small your concern may be, we're here to listen and help. Until next time, take care — and thank you for being such an important part of the Crete Township community.

Enjoy each day,

Mary Margaret Tamez
Crete Township Assessor

Crete Pantry

- by Becca Wolfe

Fall and Winter are approaching. This is good news for the pantry because the pantry shelves will be filled again. We so appreciate all the food drives and donations that keep the pantry running. Please remember, the pantry is a 501C3 which means your donations qualify as tax exempt. Also, a shout out to those that contributed to our raffle at the Crete Township 175th Anniversary on September 7, 2025, at the new Crete Township Community Center on Cottage Grove. **Thank you!!**



WE ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT CRETE TOWNSHIP



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OLD PLANK TRAIL
COMMUNITY BANK, N.A.
A WINTRUST COMMUNITY BANK

700 W. Exchange St. | Crete



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.



“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 Patty Hanus at 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

Crete Township Board Forms Community Center Advisory Council

- by Michael J. Liccar

The Crete Township Board authorized the formation of a new, Crete Township Advisory Council.

The purpose of The Council's primary purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the Crete Township Board regarding the operations and programming of the Crete Township Community Center. This includes providing input and guidance on:

- Uses of the Community Center facilities.
- Activities and events that serve the needs of Crete Township residents.
- Curriculum and programs designed for youth, families, and seniors.

• Ensuring the Community Center remains a safe, vibrant, inclusive, and accessible resource for all members of the community.

Initial members of the Council include: Carol Millsap-Executive Chairperson, Trustee Cheryl Albrecht-Township Board Liaison, Randy Dunlap-Crete Rural Park Board & Crete Bulldogs, Dr. Ghantel Perkins, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Teaching & Learning, Crete-Monee School District 201-U, Howard Robinson-Crete Township Plan Commission, Roseanne Gardner-Crete Township Fun Timers and Joe Najar-Steger School District 194.

The Council serves as a collaborative forum for gathering community feedback, identifying programming opportunities, and supporting the overall mission of the Community Center. While the Council does not hold direct decision-making authority, its recommendations will help guide the Crete Township Board in shaping policies, schedules, and community engagement initiatives.



Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

PIPP

(Percentage of income payment plan)

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 FEBRUARY 06, 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.



LOOKING FOR A FUN, NEW WAY TO BE MORE ACTIVE?



**Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize®
Universal Wellness Bingocize**

In this free program, we'll explore five key areas of health and wellness: physical, mental, social, nutrition, and hygiene

Wellness means feeling good and living your best life in all areas of health. Join us to learn simple, practical choices and actions you can take to stay healthy while having fun with Bingo!

Date: December 15, 2025 to March 16, 2026

No class 1/19/26 and 2/16/26

Time: 10:30am- 11:30am

Location: 25930 S. Cottage Grove, Crete



**TO REGISTER
CALL TANEEJAH AT
(815) 724-1168 EXT 6721**

Attendance at these events indicates consent for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet, Inc., to use my photo to promote and increase awareness of programs and services offered by the Agency. Photos may be used in Catholic Charities' printed materials, online, media, or by grantors.

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet is a faith-based organization providing service to people in need and calling others of good will to do the same.



Crete Township Celebrates 175th Anniversary & Dedication Of Community Center

- by Michael J. Liccar



- Phyllis Monks, Dr. Mark Zumhagen, Tim Piepenbrink

On September 6, 2025, Crete Township held its Grand 175th Anniversary Celebration of its founding & Dedication of the Community Center at 25930 S. Cottage Grove Avenue in Crete.

Through the efforts of dozens of volunteers and a dedicated Planning Committee, the event was a resounding success. The event began with a performance by the CMHS Marching Band & Color Guard under the direction of Mr. Rovelli Grib. At 11am, the Marching Band led everyone into the large multi-purpose room in the Community Center.

The ceremony was opened by an invocation by Pastor Brett Revlett of Crete Church, followed by the presentation of the colors by the NJROTC under the command of Petty Officer Vernon Reed and Crete American Legion Post 1291 commanded by Larry Black. Upon the presentation of the colors, the gifted Al "Big Voice" sang a resounding



- Jerry LeVault & Jesse Burnham

rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Comments were made by Will County Board Members Sherry Newquist and Dan Butler, Trustee Stephen Johnson-Village of Crete, Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, and Illinois State Representative Anthony DeLuca

Crete Township Public Service Awards were presented to the Crete Township Veterans and all of the first responders located within Crete Township.

The first "Crete Township Civic Leadership Medal of Honor" was presented to former Village President Michael Einhorn for his 40 years of service as Village President and 50 years of service to the Village of Crete Fire Department.

The Community Center was then officially dedicated to the people of Crete Township by the Board of Trustees, current & former Township elected officials, its commissioners and staff. After the ceremony, the CMHS Show Choir, under the direction of Mr. Ben Alifantis performed a fantastic show, followed by historical character enactments by Tim Piepenbrink and Phyllis Monks of the Crete Area Historical Society, portraying the founders of Crete, Willard and Dyantha Wood. Then, Dr. Mark Zumhagen as President Abraham Lincoln and Howard Kaye as Ulysees S. Grant. This was followed by a vocal performance by Al Mack and the bluegrass band, Rochambeau.

The event also included pony rides & petting zoo, a Pioneer Encampment provided by the Dan & Barbara Gerk family, scale model of a dairy farm provided by Ray Mattox, antique automobiles and a steam tractor provided by Howard Robinson, Tom Witvoet and George Kester.

Many civic and government organizations participated with booths, treats, as well as crafts and games for the children, including: Crete Area Historical Society, Crete Food Pantry, Crete Township Fun Timers, Crete Lions Club, Crete Woman's Club, Crete Area Chamber of Commerce, Crete Bulldogs, Angels on Assignment, Crete Township Highway Department, Will County Sheriff, Crete Township Fire Protection District, Village of Crete EMA and Crete F-Men.

Many thanks to our phenomenal Planning Committee and volunteers, who put the entire event together:

Cheryl Albrecht, Christian Anderson, Larry Barker, Larry Black, Rebecca Brackne, Jim Buitter, Jesse Burnham, Victoria Camp, Chemaine Carr, Jane Castle, Steve Clark, Thomas Donovan, Randy Dunlap, Sheila Einhorn, Frank Elton, Turton Family, Conley Family, William Fitzgerald, Alex Gallegos, Dan Gerk, Barbara Gerk, Sandy Gerk, Lily



- Crete-Monee High School Marching Band



- Crete Woman's Club Ice Cream Social

Gerk, Carina Gerk, Kathleen Lynch-Hale, Jo Hansen, Laura Hawkins, Jim Hanus, Beverley Houseworth, Betsy Janicki, Howard Kaye, George Kester, Midge Koza, Jerry LeVault, Debra Liccar, Chris Manola, Raymond Mattox, Alfred McGlothen, Catrina McGlothen, Tim Miller, Carol Millsap, Phyllis Monks, Sherry Newquist, Dr. Ghantel Perkins, Tim Piepenbrink, Howard Robinson, David Sieffert, Sandi Smigel, Tifanni Sterdivant, Mary Tamez, Pat & Chad Thurnherst, Janice Vankuiken, Rich VanTil, Heather VanZyl, Mark Wiater, Tom Witvoet and Becca Wolfe.

Also, our Crete Township staff who were instrumental in operating this event: Patty Hanus, Ken Miller, Pam Vasquez and Bob Walters. It was a wonderful day to celebrate the Crete area and for the community to enjoy time together recognizing our rich past history and looking forward to an incredible future. We are planning for a new event in Summer 2026.

Steve Gibson
scgibson@generatortec.com

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



Illinois Lutheran School

Preschool Age 3 - 12th Grade

Illinois Lutheran provides a safe, nurturing environment with personal attention and caring teachers to help your child thrive and grow.

- Small class sizes, academic rigor & engaging teachers
- Christian values in all classes, weekly chapel and daily Biblical instruction
- Half-day, full-day & three-day preschool options
- \$300,000+ given annually for tuition assistance
- 20+ sports, clubs & fine arts opportunities including STEM, many starting in 5th grade
- Afterschool care until 6:00 PM
- Band starting in 4th grade with private weekly lessons



CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE A VISIT!

708.672.3262
ilhs.org

Preschool - 6th Grade @ 448 Cass St, Crete
7th - 12th Grade @ 1610 Main St, Crete
Email Colleen Webb at cwebb@ilhs.org

Community Support Strengthens Crete Woman's Club

- Leslee Williams

The 104 members of CWC are grateful for the community support of our fundraisers which provide philanthropic support and scholarships. As one of Crete's largest non-profit organizations with members from 11 communities in South Suburban Chicago and Northwest Indiana, we are able to provide funds for scholarships to students living within the boundaries of school district 201U as well as funds for over 30 community organizations. We donated over \$21,000 last year with the generosity of our members and community who participate in our May flower sale, July garden walk and September plant sale.

Our last fundraiser of the year is our popular cookie sale. Homemade cookies and treats donated by the fantastic bakers of the Crete Woman's Club will be ready to serve you on Saturday, December

Homemade Cookie Sale!



PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES AND STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

6 from 9-3, or until the cookies last, at the Township Hall on Wood St. We consider our events "fun raisers" or "friend raisers" because we have fun and make friends with our community members and organizations.

Preparing Your Home for Fire, I mean, Fall Season...

- by Chief Donald R Radtke Jr



Before you crank up the heat, give your heating systems the once-over. Schedule an inspection, clean out any dust

bunnies, and ensure everything is functioning properly. A little maintenance goes a long way toward preventing a heating-related inferno. Let's keep the chilling in the October air, not in your living room!

Those lovely fall leaves may look pretty on the ground, but they can be fire hazards if left to pile up around your home. Regularly clear out debris, including leaves, branches, and other flammable materials. The only thing that should be accumulating this fall is good vibes and hot cocoa, not fire risks!

Installing Carbon Monoxide, Smoke Detectors and Fire Alarms

Having working smoke detectors and fire alarms is non-negotiable for fire safety. Install them in key areas of your home, and test them regularly—no one wants to play hide-

and-peek with outdated detectors! For extra peace of mind, consider a system that alerts you on your smartphone. Because staying safe and connected has never been more entertaining! Fire extinguishers and smoke detectors aren't like wine; they don't get better with age. Check your smoke alarms every month (pro tip: you can use that dreaded ladder you've been ignoring). Replace batteries twice a year, and if your extinguisher is older than the kids on your block, it's time to let it retire. Also, keep an eye out for any damage, like dents or corrosion – these are not party favors. Keep one in the kitchen, garage, and anywhere else you might feel like cooking up trouble.

Carbon monoxide is the sneaky little villain of home safety—it's colorless, odorless, and totally not your friend. Install a carbon monoxide detector near sleeping areas and on every level of your home. Give it a monthly test to ensure it's functioning (think of it like a safety checkup). Remember, when the detector goes off, it's time to call for help!

At anytime you have questions or concerns about fire safety, please feel free to contact your local fire department. We really do enjoy helping our residences with fire safety questions and want all of our "customers" to be safe all season long!

Crete Township Welcomes Carol Millsap As Community Center Coordinator

- by Michael J. Liccar



- Carol Millsap, Crete Township Community Center Coordinator

We are pleased to welcome Carol Millsap as Crete Township Community Center Coordinator. Carol is a proven community leader with over 35 years of experience

in governance, organization and management. Carol has served as President or Chairperson for a number of area civic organizations including: Warrior Booster Club, Crete Elementary PTO, Coretta Scott

King PTO, Monee Middle School PTO, Crete-Monee Choral Music Association, CM201-U Educational Foundation and Crete Country Christmas.

Moreover, for many years, Carol has been an effective and active member of Angels on Assignment, Crete Bulldogs, Crete Chamber of Commerce, Korean Methodist Church, Crete Church and Crete Park Pals and many others.

Carol is highly motivated and brings her excellent communications, organizational, event planning and fundraising skills to Crete Township. Carol can be reached at 708-722-1857 or carol.millsap@cretetownship.com.

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**

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Community Center

- by Michael J. Liccar



- Community Center
25930 S. Cottage Grove
Avenue, Crete

repairs and upgrades. New security, emergency and communications systems have been installed, as well as cleaning and organization of the rooms. Repairs to the parking lot and loading dock have been completed, new flag poles installed and soon, the new electronic sign will be completed. A beautiful new stage, which was designed and built by volunteers Larry Barker and Brian Wood, is now in use in the large multi-purpose room.

Improvements to the outdoor areas have been completed with the intention of eventually having walking paths as well as utilizing the retention pond for fishing and preparing community garden space.

The Crete Township Board entered into an agreement with Will County Emergency Management Agency to utilize the Community Center as an emergency location.

The "On the Move" women's workout program has been quite popular with over 70 active members. Senior Events continue with coffee times, bingo, games, social time with the newly formed Crete Township Fun Timers as well as various free physical and mental fitness programs conducted through our partnership with Catholic Charities.

The Crete Historical Society is currently displaying a number of artifacts in the main entranceway as well as a new timeline of Crete history in the main hallway. Also on display is an original Steger piano, built in 1910, which has been restored.

We are developing a commercial kitchen space and working with Illinois State Representative Thaddeus M. Jones, Illinois 29th District for funding. The Office of Will County Executive, Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, provided us with surplus commercial kitchen equipment.

The Board recently authorized the formation of a new non-profit corporation named "Friends of the Crete Township Community Center" to allow for tax-deductible donations as well as expanding potential grants. We will be offering a "Memorial Bricks" program whereby the names of supporters and their loved ones would be on display at the Community Center.

The new Community Center Advisory Council has been authorized by the Crete Township Board and will be providing resident input on the

uses of the facilities as well as new activities, events and curriculum.

The building has space available for reasonable usage fees. Please contact Community Center Coordinator, Carol Millsap at 708-722-1857 or [carol](mailto:millsap@cretetownship.com).

millsap@cretetownship.com for more information.

We have been making good progress thus far to further develop the Community Center as a valuable asset for all Township residents.

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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 36th 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 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, please contact Howard at (708) 921-6768 or Aaron at (708) 363-1332

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

The Crete F-Men Easter Egg Hunt returns this spring on Saturday, April 4th, 2026! 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 Area Historical Society

- by Sue Giannantonio

The Crete Area Historical Society was a big part of Crete Township's 175th Anniversary celebration on Saturday, September 6, 2025. To mark the occasion, members of the society displayed a large timeline on the central hallway wall in Crete Township's Community Center on South Cottage Grove Ave. Jo Hansen, one of the society's directors, created the display, which begins with information on the founders of Crete, Willard and Dyantha Wood, who settled here in 1836. The historical society also placed photos of historic buildings in the hallway across from

CRETE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



CRETE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

550 W EXCHANGE ST, CRETE, IL 60417
WWW.CRETEHISTORICAL.COM

pioneers cut trees to build their first log cabin. Meanwhile, Dyantha planted vegetable seeds. Willard and Dyantha were both teachers in Vermont, and brought books with them to teach their children. Willard

was the first teacher after he and other men built a one-room schoolhouse. Willard named the settlement Crete and served as justice of the peace. After studying Illinois law, he went to Joliet and was admitted to practice in the state. He was an attorney for fifty years and postmaster for five years. He built the Wood's Hotel at the southeast corner of Main and Exchange Streets. Willard and

Dyantha had eleven children, four who passed away as infants. Dyantha passed away in 1865 at age 54. In 1869, Willard married a widow, Eliza Northrup. She died at age 75 in 1878. Willard Wood passed away at age 91 at the Wood's Hotel in 1899. He saw the wilderness of this area transformed into the wonderful community of Crete that we reside in today.



- Phyllis Monks as Crete Founder Dyantha Wood and Tim Piepenbrink as Crete Founder Willard Wood.

the timeline.

During the anniversary celebration, Willard and Dyantha appeared in person to deliver a short speech about the hardships they overcame traveling from Vermont to Crete with their one-year-old baby in a prairie wagon, with three trunks of clothes, bedding, and some tools. Willard and other

The Cartwheel Club

Ages 4 - 5 Tumbling Classes

Mondays: 3:30 - 4:05 P.M.

Gross Motor Skills
Movement/Coordination
Fundamental Tumbling Skills

Ages 6 - 7 Tumbling Classes

Mondays: 4:10 - 4:55 P.M.

Aerobic Movement
Strength/Flexibility
Introduction to Skill Variations



Ages 8 - 10 Tumbling Classes

Mondays: 5:00 - 5:45 P.M.

Cardio Movement
Strength/Flexibility/Balance
Progressive Skill Building and Line Tumbling



Pricing: \$44 (CASH ONLY) per Session

2025 Fall/Winter Session Dates

(Held on Mondays)

October 6th - 27th

November 3rd - 24th

December 1st - 22nd

**Students must be parent/guardian independent *no credit or makeups for missed classes *pre-registration is required*

For info: (312)282-0525 (Coach Shelley)

For Registration: (708)709-0288 (Louis Sherman Community Center, 3501 Hopkins St, Steger, IL 60475)

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INSTRUCTOR: MARIE

YOGA

WEDNESDAYS - 6:15PM TO 7:15PM

INSTRUCTOR: MARIE

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Crete Library

- by Sarah Wegley



Upcoming Programs at Crete Public Library

All programs listed require registration with the exception of the Enduring Strings performance.

Call 708-672-8017 or visit cretelibrary.org/calendar to register.

Teen Volunteer Thursday

Thursday, November 13 at 3 PM
Teens

Trivia Night at Evil Horse

Thursday, November 13 at 7 PM
Adults

Zen Kidz

Saturday, November 15 at 10 AM
Children

Crosstown Exotics

Tuesday, November 18 at 6:30 PM
All ages

Fall Flavors Reimagined

Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 PM
Adults

Amelia Earhart: A First Person Portrayal

Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30 PM
Adults

Laser Comedy Show

Tuesday, December 2 at 6 PM
Families

Enduring Strings Performance

Saturday, December 6 at 2 PM
Families

STEAM Holiday

Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 PM
Families

Holiday Carol Night

Wednesday, December 17 at 5:30 PM
Families

Crete Area Chamber of Commerce

- by Jamie Healy



Crete Country Christmas – December 4 – 9, 2025

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

Thursday, December 4

Waiting for Santa PJ Party 6-8pm

Friday, December 5

Cocoa & Cookie Crawl 5-7pm
Entertainment
• 6-8 pm Little Giant
• 8:30-11pm Libido Funk Circus

Saturday, December 6

Grinch 5K, Breakfast with the Grinch, Kris Kringle Market, Reindog Contest, Santa Visits at the Gazebo and the Parade of Lights
Entertainment
• 12-1:30pm Karaoke
• 2-4pm Frank Rossi
• 4-5pm Various School Groups
• 6:45-8:30pm Midlife Crisis
• 9-11:00pm Hairbangers Ball

Sunday, December 7

Bloody Mary BINGO with Crete Lions Club 10am – 2pm

Monday, December 8 & Tuesday, December 9

Santa Sleigh Parade
Beginning at 5:00pm, both nights, the Santa Sleigh Parade will travel through Crete to greet families, take photos, and to collect non-perishables for the Crete Food Pantry and new, unwrapped toys for Angels on Assignment. Routes will be the same as previous years, with in-town on Monday and Lincolnshire/Lincolnshire East on Tuesday. View routes and LIVE GPS tracker on our website.



Crete Park Pals

- by Jamie Healy



Crete Park Pals

ESTABLISHED IN 2011

Breakfast with the Grinch at Crete Country Christmas

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 first seating is reserved for our sensory-sensitive guests. The proceeds from this fundraiser will be used by the Park pals to fulfill their pledge to the Park District to fund \$50K of the new outdoor Fitness Court at Swiss Valley Park.

Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025

Cost: \$20 per person

Time: 4 seating times to choose from 9:00 (sensory friendly), 9:30, 10:00, or 10:30

Location: Crete Country Christmas Tent on Cass St.

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, and 4 reserved parking spots. Tickets can be purchased at 737 W. Exchange or online at cretetpark.com

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 \$4 each. The ceremony will be held at Willard Wood Park Center on Thursday, December 4 at 5:30pm.

Winter Break Camp

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: \$236 Resident Fee: \$180

Head to cretetpark.com to view our E-Guide for a full list of all our programs and events!

Michael Einhorn Awarded Crete Township Civic Leadership Medal Of Honor

- by Michael J. Liccar



- Michael Einhorn being awarded the Crete Township Civic Leadership Medal of Honor.

Former Village of Crete President Michael Stephen Einhorn was awarded the first ever, "Crete Township Civic Leadership Medal of Honor" during the Township's 175th Anniversary Celebration on September 6, 2025.

Mike served as Village President (Mayor) of the Village of Crete for over 40 years. He also served for 50 years on the Village of Crete Fire Department, including as Deputy Fire Chief, responding to over 12,000 calls during his tenure.

As Mike was awarded this honor, Supervisor Liccar stated that: "During his service, Michael was always prepared, diligent and saw any project or challenge to the finish. He always put the people first and gave no regard to himself.

And he proved this time and time again through thousands of challenges whether they be infrastructure, Village planning, financial or his work to bring economic viability to our area.

For his service, far beyond the call of duty, the Crete Township Board of Trustees wished to award the very first ever "Crete Township Civic Leadership Medal of Honor" and there was no one more deserving of this honor than Michael Stephen Einhorn"

Congratulations to Mike for his many years of service and for a job well done.



CRETE TOWNSHIP

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December Events

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- 9th Doug Home w/ Rhythm Makers Orchestra & Swing Dancing
- 9th Frank Rossi
- 12th Little Giant
- 13th Im with Frank
- 15th Line Dancing
- 17th Songwriters
- 19th Jukebox Heroes
- 23rd Frank Rossi
- 27th EVE OF THE EVE PARTY

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Comments or questions can be directed to: Crete Township Office (708) 672-8279
We welcome you to also visit our website: www.cretetownship.com

To place an ad with Crete Township, please contact Pam at (708) 672-8279,
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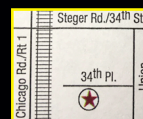
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