



Village News

Volume XIX, No.4
December 1, 2010

News & Information for Residents

The Village of Lemont is dedicated to promoting and preserving the character of the community and ensuring a high quality of life through professional public service provided in a friendly, consistent, and fiscally responsible manner, emphasizing the best interest of the community as a whole.

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Don't Miss . . .

Hometown Holiday
Saturday, December 4
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Lemont

Community
Tree Lighting
5:00 p.m.
Budnik Plaza

Visit us on the web
at www.lemont.il.us



*From our families to yours,
a Joyous Holiday Season!*

Mayor Brian Reaves
Charlene Smollen, Clerk

Board of Trustees:

- Debby Blatzer
- Paul Chialdikas
- Clifford Miklos
- Rick Sniegowski
- Ronald Stapleton
- Jeanette Virgilio



From the Mayor's Desk

As the end of 2010 approaches, it is a good opportunity to pause and reflect on the past year and a half under the leadership of this administration. I can honestly say that as a Board we are living up to our promises to be fiscally responsible, with a firm commitment to public safety, creative economic development, and maintaining healthy relationships with Lemont's other governmental agencies. I must admit that fiscal responsibility has been by far the most challenging to live up to, and I applaud the Board and staff for making the tough decisions we have been forced to make to remain within our budget in the current economic climate. The State of Illinois owes us approximately \$500,000 at this time. It will be interesting to see how the recent election will affect local governments' ability to pay their own bills.

Protecting our Boundaries

A matter of some concern to the Village Board recently surfaced when we became aware that Palos Park was considering annexation of the Mid-Iron Golf Course on Bell Road between McCarthy Road and 131st Street. Properties abutting the golf course had been previously annexed by Lemont. Utilities have been extended to these sites at considerable cost with the anticipation that these would also service Mid-Iron and other properties in this area. In addition, the long-standing comprehensive plan of Lemont anticipated this property would be annexed to Lemont as a continuation of the natural and orderly growth in this area. Lemont officials have reached out to the property owners and dialogue remains open for annexation of this property in Lemont. Annexation of the northwest and southwest corners of McCarthy and Bell was finalized at the end of October providing even more incentive for the annexation of Mid-Iron to Lemont.

Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2

From the Mayor's Desk

Billboard Litigation

The trial to determine if two electronic billboards can be installed along the I-355 bridge over the Des Plaines River Valley will continue on December 1. To summarize events to date, the Village opposed the initial application for a variation to erect the billboards in unincorporated Cook County, which would rise approximately as high as the Village's water tower on State Street and be visible to residents in the Briarcliffe subdivision. The variation request was denied by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, and the applicants subsequently sued Cook County. The Village became a co-defendant by intervening in the lawsuit. In October, the Village requested a directed verdict claiming that the plaintiff had not made a convincing case. The motion was denied by the court. Cook County and the Village will present testimony, and hopefully prevail, when the trial resumes.



Comprehensive Plan Update

The Village of Lemont's Comprehensive Plan was last updated and adopted in October of 2002. Much has occurred in Lemont since then, and the Village Board feels it would be appropriate to update the plan. Development issues facing a municipality change over time, so as a rule comprehensive plans, which are basically a blueprint for future development, are updated about every ten years. The Planning & Economic Development Department will begin an update early in 2011. Public input is a requisite for any update, so I encourage residents to be aware of, attend and comment at these public sessions.

Village Tax Rate

The 2009 tax rates for Lemont Township have been published, and I am happy to report that the Village of Lemont portion of your tax bill will be showing a decrease from 0.367 to 0.359 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The Village Board is proud of the fact that Village tax rates have shown a steady decline over the past several years. Take a minute to look at your tax bill to examine how your tax dollars are portioned out to various taxing districts.

Town Hall Meeting

On November 8, the Village Board held a town hall meeting to provide information and accept final public comments on two north-south street connections at First and Fourth Streets. The meeting was very well attended and all residents who wished to speak were given the opportunity. The Village Board must now consider whether these connections should be assigned a priority in the next budget cycle, or delayed until a later date.

Construction Wrap-up

Water main has been installed and individual services are about to be connected in the Warner-Norton-Eureka reconstruction project. A \$450,000 Grant from the state of Illinois has been earmarked but not received for the replacement and separation of the sewers. We are hopeful that the funds will be received in a timely manner and the project will be completed next spring. Water main on State Street between Illinois and Cass has been upgraded to new 12" main through the Cook County Community Block Grant Development Program which provided 70% of the project cost. The Village has been able to utilize this program to substantially fund several water main upgrades on Illinois Street.

In this holiday season, we extend the sincere wishes of the Village Board and staff for a healthy, safe and joyous Christmas and New Year!

Brian K. Reeves, Mayor

E-Pay Now Available on Village Website

Residents will now find it easier and more convenient to pay utility bills, parking tickets, and building permit fees by credit card on the Village website at www.lemont.il.us. This service is coordinated through the Illinois State Treasurer's office and is completely secure.

Visa, MasterCard or Discover cards can be used to pay bi-monthly utility bills, parking tickets, commuter lot parking violations and simple ordinance violation tickets. Building permits for fences, decks and sheds can also be paid for by clicking on the "Pay On Line" link on the front page of the Village website.

For more information on E-Pay, residents may contact the Finance Department at (630) 257-1550 or epay@lemont.il.us.

Municipal Code Now On Line

Residents are now able to look up Village regulations on everything from the adjudication process to weeds with a click of the mouse. The Lemont Municipal Code is now on line and accessible from the front page of the Village website at www.lemont.il.us.

A wealth of information is available in this document, including the full text of the Unified Development Ordinance which contains zoning information and the land use application process.

The Code will be updated annually to include new ordinances.

**Support the Food
Pantries During This
Holiday Season!**

What's New



Public Works Department and Waste Management Partner with Police on Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch on Wheels is a new Public Works Department program in partnership with the Lemont Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program designed to improve the safety of Lemont residents.

Public Works personnel are on the streets at all times of the day, able to report any and all suspicious activity by radio or mobile phone to the Police Department. Five to eight crews can be out in the neighborhoods, in alleys, ponds, and back yards and these extra eyes can help keep your property safe.

Public Works personnel will be attending meetings of Neighborhood Watch groups around the community to stay informed of neighborhood concerns.

Waste Management has announced a similar program called **Waste Watch**. The company's collection drivers are trained by local law enforcement agencies to assist police and emergency services by observing and reporting anything out of the ordinary.

Electronics Recycling Program Moves to Public Works



The E-Waste Recycling Program is being moved from the Village Hall to the Public Works Department at 16680 New Avenue. Electronics will be accepted for recycling during business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents are advised to call ahead (630) 257-2532 before dropping off recycling.

Computers and computer equipment including printers, fax equipment, scanners, notebooks, laptops, home sound equipment, calculators, phones, VCRs and microwave ovens are accepted.

TV's and computer monitors are now also being accepted free of charge.

The program is offered in conjunction with COM2 Recycling Solutions.

For additional information on the program, please call the Village Hall at (630) 257-1550 or email jbrown@lemont.il.us.

Recycle CFL Light Bulbs at Village Hall



Used CFL light bulbs can now be dropped off at the Village Hall, 418 Main Street, for recycling during regular business hours, M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The bulbs contain small amounts of mercury and should not be disposed of in the trash.

This program is sponsored by Waste Management.

Environmental Commission's Semi-Annual Recycling Events

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Please watch for information on other recycling opportunities. The Lemont Environmental Commission sponsors two annual recycling events for everything from motor oil to document shredding. The next recycling event will be held in April, 2011.

Green Tips to Lower Winter Energy Costs

- Consider investing in a programmable thermostat and set it to kick on shortly before you get up in the morning or arrive home from work.
- Set ceiling fans to run clockwise in winter to push warmer air down where you can enjoy it.

WINTER INFO

Winter Parking Reminder

During and after any snowfall, please try to remove vehicles from Village streets if at all possible to facilitate clearing. If removing vehicles is not possible,

**after a snowfall of 2 inches
PARK ON THE
odd-numbered side of the street
on odd calendar days,
even-numbered side of the street on
even calendar days.**

The day is considered to begin at 9:00 a.m.
**Watch Channel 6
or call 630-257-1550 for information.**



❄️
**Salting
and
Snow Removal** ❄️
❄️ ❄️

The Public Works Department begins ice and snow control measures even before hazardous road conditions are expected.

As soon as conditions warrant it, the salting process begins on major streets designated as primary routes, hills, curves and all intersections. Residential streets that are relatively flat will be salted only at intersections. Salt remains the most cost effective means of breaking the bond between ice and the street, especially with Lemont's unique topography.

Plowing commences after snow accumulates to an inch or more. Village roadways are divided into 9 zones for the plowing process with primary routes, including hills and school bus routes being plowed first.

As soon as primary routes are cleared, crews will move on to the secondary routes. After all streets are open, trucks will begin the curbing operation.

The goal of the Public Works Department is to remove snow from all streets within six hours after the conclusion of a significant snowfall.

Your cooperation in removing vehicles from the street and observing the odd-even parking regulations will make this job easier and more efficient.



Don't Take Chances!

Winter Storms and Emergencies

If an emergency arises during a winter storm, residents should dial 911. All Public Works plowing vehicles maintain continuous two-way radio communication with the Police Department. Snow removal equipment can provide immediate support to ambulance and fire equipment.

Damaged Property

Mailboxes in the Village right-of-way are sometimes damaged during snow removal. These will be replaced with a standard rural route mailbox in the spring. To report damage, call the Public Works Department at (630) 257-2532.

Important Phone Numbers

Police or Fire Emergency:	9-1-1
Water & Sewer After Hours Emergency:	9-1-1
Water & Sewer Dept.	630-257-2532
Water Billing Dept.	630-257-6277
J.U.L.I.E. (Utility Locator)	800-892-0123
NICOR	888-642-6748
ComEd	800-334-7661
Comcast Cable T.V.	866-594-1234
Waste Management	800-796-9696



Chief Shaughnessy Receives Chief of the Year Award

The Illinois Crime Prevention Association recently honored Chief Kevin Shaughnessy at the annual Appreciation Luncheon with the "Chief of the Year" award. Six awards were presented by the association to organizations and personnel who had led efforts to improve crime prevention in their communities.

Holiday Safety Tips

As the holiday season approaches, the Police Department reminds you of a few tips to keep your holiday season safe and enjoyable.

- Never give your credit card information over the phone unless YOU initiated the call.
- Protect your PIN number at ATM's and retail store terminals.
- Lock your vehicle at all times. Park in well-lit areas in shopping center parking lots.
- Place holiday shopping packages in the trunk and never leave your purse or wallet on the front seat of your vehicle.
- Double check monthly credit card statements for accuracy. Identity theft can strike anyone.
- Never leave your car unlocked even on your own property.
- The spirit of the holidays is best enjoyed by those who travel with two important convictions: **ALWAYS** use your seatbelt and **NEVER** drink and drive.

Police Briefs

S.A.L.T. Council (Seniors & Law Enforcement Together) Holds Senior Expo

Lemont Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) Council held the 2nd Annual Senior Expo on October 11, 2010 at the Park District Centennial Building. Over 50 vendors participated and attendance was up 50% over last year with over 200 people attending.

Twelve lucky people found money they did not know was theirs through the Illinois State Treasurer's Office "Cash Dash" program. Along with free food, door prizes and blood pressure checks, the seniors were given free legal advice by Attorney C. June of Joliet.

Seniors are invited to attend monthly meetings of the S.A.L.T. Council at the Lemont Police Station, 14600 127th Street. Please contact Officer Denise Bode at (630) 257-2229 Ex. 2478 or email Dbode@lemont.il.us for more information on S.A.L.T.

Police Department's Fighting Chance Workshop

In November, the Police Department partnered with the Lemont Junior Woman's Club, the Fire Department and the Illinois State Police in providing another Fighting Chance Workshop for students age 9 - 15. The workshops educate children on avoiding and preventing abduction.

Instruction is given on how to escape from a vehicle, the best hiding places in a building or home, how to identify an attacker, 9-1-1 and cell phone instruction, and some basic hand to hand techniques to avoid restraint.

The workshop presents both information and skills to empower young people in the event of kidnapping or abduction.

For more information, please contact Officer Denise Bode at (630) 257-2229.



Holiday Artists Bazaar Lemont Center for the Arts



One-stop holiday shopping will be available at the First Annual Holiday Artists Bazaar at Lemont Center for the Arts at 1243 State Street, Unit 101.

December 3 ~ 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
December 4 ~ 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
December 5 ~ Noon - 4:00 p.m.

December 10 ~ 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
December 11 ~ 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
December 12 ~ Noon - 4:00 p.m.

December 17 ~ 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
December 18 ~ 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
December 19 ~ Noon - 4:00 p.m.



**Lemont Center for the Arts
1243 State Street, Unit 101**

**Come Visit Us In Person. Gallery Hours are:
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. • Sunday, Noon - 4:00 p.m.**

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY EVENT SERIES

Saturday, December 4th: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY

- Tree Decorating Throughout Town.
- Ice Sculpting Demonstration at Budnik Plaza.
- Horsedrawn Wagon Rides from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Facepainting from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- Complimentary Hot Chocolate & Cookies Provided by Girl Scouts Community Service Unit 24.
- Caroling – Girl Scouts from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m.
- Tree Lighting – Budnik Plaza at 5:00 p.m.
- Pictures With Santa & Mrs. Claus from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Kris Kringle Market on Talcott.
- Variety of Children's Activities (Crafts, Games & Storytelling)
- Enjoy the outdoor German inspired Kris Kringle Market.

For more information, call Village Hall at 630-243-2700.

Saturday & Sunday, December 4th-5th: 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

KRIS KRINGLE MARKET

431 Talcott Avenue - Historic Downtown Lemont

- Come, take your picture with Mr. & Mrs. Claus in the North Pole, Saturday, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m., Sunday, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Enjoy the outdoor German inspired market.
- A non-perishable drop box will be on site to help support our local food pantries. Please come out and help those in need this holiday season!

Contact Viviana at 630-243-9430 with questions or interest in participating.

Friday, December 10th: 6:00 p.m. til Midnight

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

- Participating Merchants stay open til midnight for the convenience of holiday shoppers – arts and crafts vendors, too! Enter the "Shop Lemont" Contest!
- Caroling – St. Pat's Choir Starting at 7:00 p.m.

Contact Michelle at 630-514-6642 with questions or interest in participating.

Lemont Welcomes New Businesses



Deja Vu Rack, 1243 State Street



Sweet Water Deli, 316 Canal St.



Front Street Cantina, 319 Front St.



Rummage Inn, 238 Main Street;
Lola's Consignment, 236 Main St.

**Support The 3/50 Project
Save Your Local Economy
3 Stores at a Time!**





Hometown Holiday Event Series



Hometown Holiday,
December 4, 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Kris Kringle Market,
December 4 & 5, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Midnight Madness,
December 10, 6:00 p.m. to Midnight

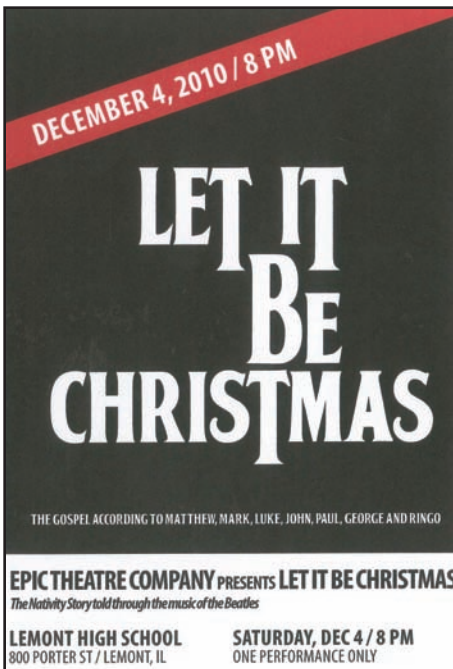
See Page 6 for Schedule & Full Details.

December 3, 4, 5 – December 10, 11, 12 & December 17, 18, 19 Lemont Center for the Arts Presents its 1st Annual Holiday Artists Bazaar

See full details on Page 5. For more information,
call Mona Parry, 708-301-7496.

December 4: 2 Sessions from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon OR from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. "Milk & Cookies With Santa"

Franciscan Village, 1270 Village Drive, Lemont.
Admission is FREE. 2 sessions offered. Please
RSVP by November 29. Each session will consist of
Visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, "Milk and Cookies"
with Santa, and Children's Christmas Bingo with
Prizes. Goodies for each child, door prizes & face
painting. Please call 630-243-3412.



December 4: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lemont Park District's Holiday Craft Show

Centennial Building Gym. Find special gifts created by some of the areas finest arts and crafts designers. Homemade decorations, hand-crafted toys, stocking stuffers and candies are just a few of the treasures you will find. For more info, contact the Park District at 630-257-6787.

December 4, 11 & 18: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Even Santa Needs Help... Gift Wrapping Services at St. Matthew Saturday mornings in December

Let the elves at St. Matthew Lutheran Church help YOU this Christmas. Take some stress out of the holidays by dropping your labeled presents off at St. Matthew and letting our team of wrappers do their job. Come back and pick up your presents, wrapped, labeled and bowed. No buying paper, running out of tape, or staying up late wrapping presents. Free will offering to support the youth programs at St. Matthew.

December 5: 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Santa, Homebaked Cookies, Holiday Music and Cheer at Lemont Historical Society

The Lemont Historical Society will host its annual Holiday Open House & Cookie Sale on Saturday, December 5th from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. Holiday music by the St. Alphonsus Parish Choir and Music Ensemble directed by Joseph Martorano will perform from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. followed by the Carolers from St. Patrick Contemporary Choir at 2:30 p.m. Be sure to bring the kids for a visit with Santa from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring your camera to take a photo with Santa and our Victorian tree. Delicious assortments of holiday cookies, baked by Society members will be available for purchase all afternoon. Come for an hour or spend the afternoon and kick off your holiday season with some wonderful holiday cheer. For further information, please call 630-257-2972.

December 8: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lemont Library's Holiday Open House

Featuring Guitarist, Ken Rothacker. In conjunction with the Open House, the Friends of the Library will be hosting a Holiday Book and Craft Sale. Refreshments will be served. Call the Library at 630-257-6541 for more info. *The Lemont Library has a variety of free programs for kids, teens and adults. Check our website, lemontlibrary.org for more details.*

December 11: 2 Seatings 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Lemont Junior Woman's Club Hosts its 16th Annual Benefit Breakfast With Santa

Location: Cog Hill Country Club. Guests at each seating enjoy a visit with Santa, stories with Mrs. Claus, a sleigh ride, a roaming magician, and a buffet breakfast. The event benefits over 50 underprivileged children in our community. Please contact Kim Cryer at 630-243-1197 for tickets and additional information.

Dec. 11 – Jan. 29 – Feb. 26: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Special Needs Respite Nights

Staffed by trained professionals. Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Call Pastor Adam Lewis at 708-349-0454, ext. 41 to register or register online at www.chicagofirstnaz.org.

December 12: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School's Pancake Breakfast With Santa

St. Alphonsus Church. Tickets \$6 for adults, \$4 seniors and children age 3 and older. Christmas cookies & pictures with Santa also available for sale. 630-783-2220 for advance tickets.

December 17th thru 19th: 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Franciscan Village Holds "Live Nativity"

This unique, live outdoor event will also include live animals, a baby camel, a miniature donkey, sheep, goats and a lamb, and will be held at Franciscan Village, 1270 Village Drive. Please enter our community at the west entrance on Main Street. You will be guided through the community grounds past the Live Nativity scene. You will then exit right, via the east entrance onto Main Street. This event is FREE. For more information, call 630-243-3500.

December 19: 8:00 a.m. 2nd Annual Frigid 5K

This event will feature a 5K race (3.1 mile) that will take place at the Park District's Centennial Park Campus. Awards given the top 2 runners in each age division. All runners receive a t-shirt if registered before December 10th. For more info, call the Park District at 630-257-6787.

December 19: 9:00 a.m. to Noon Breakfast With Santa

Centennial Building Gym. Enjoy all your breakfast favorites! Children visit and have their pictures taken with Santa, make a holiday craft and play holiday games. NEW this year, write a letter to Santa and he'll write you back! All pre-registered children will receive their letter back at Breakfast with Santa. You must be pre-registered to participate in this portion of the program! For more info, call the Park District at 630-257-6787.

**December 19: 6:00 p.m.
Southwest Community Band Concert and
Carol Sing** – Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. Free admission / donations of non-perishable food pantry items accepted. Call 708-349-0454 for more information.

**January 5: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Franciscan Village Holiday Housewalk**
1270 Village Drive, Lemont. RSVP at 630-243-3500.

**February 5: 9:00 a.m. til Full
Seller/Volunteer Registration for Spring
Children's Clothing & Toy Resale** – First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. First-come, first-served. Call 708-349-0454 for more information.

**February 12: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Community Blood Drive**
First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. For more information or to sign up, call the church office at 708-349-0454.

**February 26 & 27:
Lemont Lions Dandy LIONS Cabaret Show**
This Must Be The Place, 206 Main Street. For more information call Barb at 630-257-6479.

FEEDBACK

Your comments, suggestions and concerns are important to us. Please use this form to communicate and include your name and address if you would like a response.

Return to:
Village of Lemont
418 Main Street
Lemont, IL 60439



Holiday Hours **Village Offices**

Village offices will be closed December 23 and 27th.
Offices will also be closed on December 31.



**PLEASE SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRIES
DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**



Lemont Village News

Village of Lemont
418 Main Street Lemont, IL 60439-3788
630-257-1550
FAX 630-257-1598
email: vlemont@lemont.il.us
website address: www.lemont.il.us

Mayor

Brian K. Reaves

Clerk

Charlene Smollen

Trustees

Debby Blatzer Rick Sniegowski
Paul Chialdikas Ronald Stapleton
Clifford Miklos Jeanette Virgilio

Village Administrator

Benjamin P. Wehmeier

Village Board Meetings
2nd & 4th Mondays - 7:00 pm

Village of Lemont
418 Main Street
Lemont, IL 60439

Car-T-Sort
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lemont, IL
60439
Permit No. 89

Postal Customer
Lemont, IL 60439

