

Village News

Volume XVII No.4
December 1, 2008

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 6
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 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 John Piazza
Charlene Smollen, Clerk

Board of Trustees:

- Debby Blatzer
- Peter Coules
- Clifford Miklos
- Brian Reaves
- Ronald Stapleton
- Jeanette Virgilio

From the Mayor's Desk

Village Economy

The economy is the topic of concern uppermost in everyone's mind these days. Every layer of government has had to reevaluate their revenue projections and expenditures. Municipal governments, including Lemont, are no exception. The economic picture for the present fiscal year is certainly not as bright as in prior years. The good news is that state-shared revenues have increased slightly due to the special census conducted last fall, but building permits, engineering and site development fees are lower because of the dismal housing market and the general downturn in the national economy. Sales tax projections are flat and revenues will most likely continue to decrease in the short term.



Actions taken by the Village Board over the past few years have improved our financial health tremendously: making the water system financially self-sufficient instead of relying on new connection fees to subsidize it, and adjusting inspection fees to cover all costs associated with the inspection process. The administrative adjudication program over time should result in some increased revenues without having to share them with the court system.

Some belt-tightening has been necessary over the past few months with even more to come, but the Village Board remains committed to providing the highest level of service possible within the constraints of the available budget while holding the line on your property taxes.

Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2

From the Mayor's Desk



New Businesses Open

Despite the lean economy, new businesses are opening in town. Since the last newsletter we have welcomed the Wine Emporium and Aldi's uptown, DM Foot and Ankle Clinic in Derby Plaza, and This Must Be the Place, Inspired Needle, Bottles, GameStorm and Jakks downtown. Your support of these and all Lemont businesses would certainly increase their ability to succeed.

Road Salt

Road salt seems to be the hot commodity this year—prices are high and supplies are short. I would like to congratulate the Public Works Department for their efforts to lock in 3,000 tons of salt through the State Purchasing Program. With an 800 ton surplus left from last winter, there should be a sufficient supply to see the Village through the winter.

Eastern Gateway TIF

The public hearing process for the Rt. 83 TIF District was concluded at the end of October. Before the end of January, the Village will have to annex the properties in the TIF before it can become official. We do not anticipate any problems related to this matter. A developer has purchased the former junkyard property on the east side of Rt. 83, and is attempting to close on the junkyards on the west side. Annexation of these parcels with a plan for redevelopment is the major impetus for enacting the TIF. Discussion has taken place regarding various concepts for development, including a Metra station and parking, but no concrete plan has been presented so far. The TIF District is critical to enticing development in this blighted area.

Looking back over the past year, the Village Board has made some very important strides toward our goals. The new Police facility is on schedule for spring occupancy and within budget; the local court system has been set up and is functioning, several engineering and drainage issues around town were successfully resolved including sewer separation and new lines along Peiffer, Singer and Norton; the downtown parking garage is now open for public use; updated building codes have been adopted, and zoning has been streamlined through adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance. These goals could not be accomplished without the support of our residents and the dedicated commitment of the Village Board.

In closing, I would like to extend the very best wishes of the Village Board and staff for a healthy, safe and joyous holiday season.

John F. Piazza, Mayor



Aldi's Grand Opening, 1237 State St.



DM Foot & Ankle Clinic, Derby Plaza



Jakk's Apparel, 445 Talcott Street



This Must Be The Place, 206 Main St.



Bottles, 439 Talcott Street



Wine Emporium, 1243 State Street



Aurelio's Pizza, 1243 State Street

Green Lemont Initiative Continues

The Green Lemont Initiative seeks to make Lemont a sustainable town. The initiative has three broad approaches to achieving that goal: change Village policies and regulations, foster cooperation between the Village and other taxing bodies and local and regional organizations, and educate residents.

The model rain garden described is one example of recent progress. Staff continues work on several other initiatives, including a residential rain barrel distribution, a permanent electronic waste recycling station, education programs with the Park District and high school, and energy conservation and waste reduction measures within municipal operations. A "Green Plan" should be presented to the Village Board later this year.

The Environmental Commission reported that in the October 4 Fall Recycling Event, Lemont residents recycled over 9 tons of electronics, 626 gallons of used latex paint, over 1,000 gallons of motor oil, and 250 gallons of miscellaneous automotive fluids.

Community Development Block Grant Funds Available

The Cook County Community Development Block Grant Program has funds available to correct code violations and replace roofs, furnaces, siding and windows for qualifying households that meet income guidelines. No monthly payments or interest. Homes will be liened for the full dollar amount of the rehabilitation and the funds are repaid only when the house is sold. For more information, Call Holly Campbell, the Grant Administrator at (708) 206-1155.

Community Development



As part of the Green Lemont Initiative, the Village partnered with the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT), the Prairie Godmothers, Possibility Place nursery, and the United Methodist Church to create a model rain garden. The rain garden, located on the church's grounds at the west end of Custer Street, is meant to mitigate drainage problems on site. The garden consists of plants native to northern Illinois. Rain water run-off that would otherwise pour across the parking area (and cause hazards by freezing the parking lot surface in winter) or seep into the church's basement, will now be soaked up by these deep-rooted prairie and savanna plants. The rain garden was installed by volunteers from the church in late September and should be in full bloom within two years.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) is a Chicago-based organization that conducts research and participates in projects that promote *urban sustainability* – the more effective use of existing resources and community assets to improve the health of natural systems and the wealth of people, today and in the future. On the project at United Methodist Church, CNT provided engineering guidance and assisted with the installation of the garden. For more information on the Center for Neighborhood Technology see: www.cnt.org.

The Prairie Godmothers designed the garden, procured the plants, and assisted the church members with the installation. Prairie Godmothers is a growing network of environmentally responsible gardeners who offer projects and services designed to improve outdoor spaces. They transition gardens into "greener" landscapes by using products that enrich soil and prevent erosion, using plants that can stand up to the local temperature and climate, and collecting rainwater to recycle back into the landscape. Hiring a Prairie Godmother guarantees your landscape is not only pleasing to the eye but 100% earth-friendly. Visit them at www.PrairieGodmothers.com or call (708) 205-5126.

The rain garden is intended to serve as a model for other community groups or residents searching for alternative methods to solve drainage issues and create small patches of aesthetically pleasing landscaping that attract birds and butterflies. Residents are encouraged to visit the church's parking lot and view the rain garden. For more information on rain gardens or the Green Lemont Initiative, contact the Village's Community Development Department at (630) 257-1595.

WINTER INFO

Winter Parking Reminder



**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.

New Salting Procedures

In an effort to conserve road salt and be kinder to the environment, the Public Works Department has developed some new procedures for salting. Major streets designated as primary routes, hills, curves and all intersections will continue to be salted as usual. 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.

There will be no change to the plowing procedures. If the snow event warrants plowing, the primary routes, including hills and school bus routes will be plowed first.

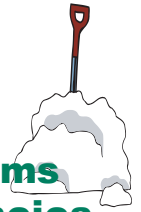
As soon as primary routes are cleared, crews will move on to the secondary routes. After all streets are open, trucks will begin the curbing operation. Your cooperation with the odd-even parking regulations will make this job easier and more efficient.

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

Winter Tips to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Inspect your home and seal any cracks or drafts around doors, windows and walls near water pipes and meter.
- Insulate water pipes and meter to prevent freezing. Check frequently for leaks.
- In prolonged periods of very cold weather, let a continuous trickle of water run in a sink or bathtub fixture to keep water circulating.
- If plumbing fixtures are on an outside wall in a vanity or cabinet, open the cabinet door in very cold weather to keep pipes from freezing.

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.

Green Tips for Lower 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.

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

Partners in Crime Prevention Neighborhood Watch Program

The Neighborhood Watch program enables Lemont Police Department and citizens to work together to make their specific neighborhood more crime resistant.

If your neighborhood is interested in a Neighborhood Watch program, contact Officer Therese George at (630) 257-2229 to set up an initial meeting. Pick a date two weeks in advance and invite your neighbors by phone or flyer. Lemont Safety Village and Village Hall Board Room or a neighborhood residence are all good locations for the first meeting. A Block Captain(s) is needed to help organize the Neighborhood Watch and coordinate with the Police Department.

Open the lines of communication between your neighborhood and the Police Department today by organizing a Neighborhood Watch where you live.

Police Briefs

Police Department Receives Governor's Hometown Award For Kops 'N Kidz Day



Kops 'N Kidz Day was created by the Police Department to reach out to young people and develop relationships with them beyond regular police duty.

The Police Department partnered with Lemont Park District to offer a day of fun activities where kids could interact with police officers as "real" people having fun. More than 300 kids participated in the bike parade, games, magic show, inflatables, SWAT demonstration and other activities during the day. Village businesses and clubs donated food and prizes and helped finance the event. About 100 volunteers from the community helped with registration, games, and activities during the day.

On October 20, Chief Kevin Shaughnessy and staff traveled to Springfield to accept a Governor's Hometown Award for Kops 'N Kidz Day. Projects in 8 population categories were selected as winners.

To Register for the Initial Response Medical Alert I.D. Bracelet Program, call Officer Therese George at (630) 257-2229.

Secure the Call

Lemont Police Department has partnered with Secure the Call to provide cell phones that can be used to call 9-1-1 at no cost to the resident. You can be connected to the nearest emergency operator in seconds. If you need an emergency cell phone, please call Officer Therese George at 630-257-2229.

Police Department Renews Accreditation

An assessment team from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) will conduct an on-site assessment to verify that the Department complies with 460 accepted standards for accreditation.

Public Comment is invited at a Public Information session on December 8 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 205 at the Village Hall.

Telephone comments will be accepted from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. on December 8, (630) 417-0300 for citizens who cannot attend the Public Information session.

Written comments may be submitted to CALEA, 10302 Eaton Place, Suite 100, Fairfax VA, 22030-2205.

No Solicitation

The Police Department does not solicit contributions via the telephone. No Lemont Police Officer will ever call your residence to ask for donations. If you should receive such a call, just say "no, thanks" or simply hang up.

To Receive Email Alerts at Home

If you are interested in receiving timely and important information from the Village and the Police Department, please send your email address to emailalert@lemont.il.us.

For additional information, please contact the Police Department at (630) 257-2229.



HOMETOWN HOLIDAY EVENT SERIES

Saturday, December 6th: 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY

- Tree Decorating Throughout Town
- Ice Sculpting Demonstration at Budnik Plaza
- Horsedrawn Wagon Rides from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Complimentary Hot Chocolate & Cookies
Provided by Girl Scouts Community Service Unit 24
- Caroling – Girl Scouts from 4:00 to 4:30 p.m.
- Facepainting from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Tree Lighting – Budnik Plaza at 5:00 p.m.
- Pictures With Santa & Mrs. Claus from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Variety of Children's Activities (Crafts, Games & Storytelling)
- Free Christmas Dance and Music Lessons at Allegro Studios
- **Bring a Donation of Non-Perishable Food or a Child's Gift (Value \$5.00 or More) and Receive a Raffle Ticket for a Special Holiday Drawing.**

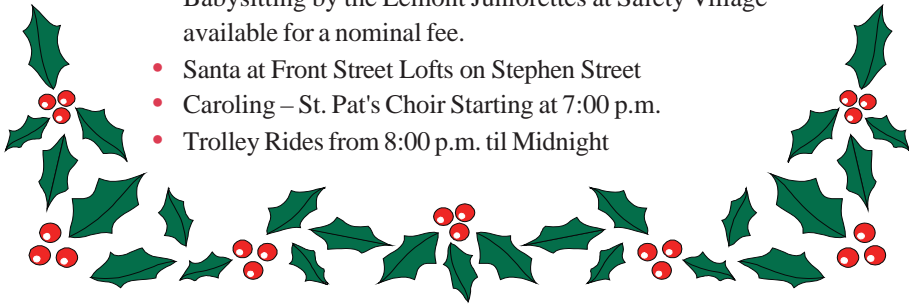
Saturday, December 13th: 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

LIGHT – UP LEMONT

- Lighting of the Luminaries at 5:00 p.m.
- Horsedrawn Carriage Rides from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Santa at Front Street Lofts on Stephen Street
- Christmas Carolers and Other Live Music
- Enter the "Shop Lemont" Contest!
- Decorated Storefront Contest – *Open to Public Voting. Ballots Available at Participating Stores. Winners to be Announced at Midnight Madness.*

Friday, December 19th: 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!
 - Babysitting by the Lemont Junioresettes at Safety Village available for a nominal fee.
 - Santa at Front Street Lofts on Stephen Street
 - Caroling – St. Pat's Choir Starting at 7:00 p.m.
 - Trolley Rides from 8:00 p.m. til Midnight
- 



Lemont Jaycees Will Again be Collecting "Toys for Santa!"

Santa needs new unwrapped toys for children of all ages up to 18 years old. Santa visits thousands of children every year to make their Christmas brighter. Watch for the collection boxes at various locations in town. If you would like to make a donation and are unable to make it to one of the drop-off locations, please call the Jaycees at 630-257-2423.

Shop Lemont for the Holidays Begins November 28th!

Look for the stocking in the window to identify participating merchants! Starting Friday, November 28th, with each qualifying purchase at participating downtown shops and restaurants, customers will receive a raffle entry with their receipt for a chance to win great prizes and gift certificates donated by downtown merchants.

Gift Certificates Available at Chamber of Commerce

Gift Certificates in \$10 denominations or more are available at the Lemont Chamber of Commerce, 101 Main Street (Train Station) between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. **PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE** for personalization of Certificates. To order or for more information call 630-257-5997.

Lemont Junior Woman's Club How Do You Do Hostess Program

The Junior Woman's Club has been delivering bags filled with various items and coupons from Lemont Businesses to new homeowners, welcoming them to our Village for over 10 years now. If you would like more information regarding the How Do You Do Hostess Program, please contact Nancy Bigelow at 708-243-0282 and for more information on the Lemont Junior Woman's Club, please view their website at www.lemontjuniorwomansclub.org or contact Theresa Vasvery at 630-243-1749.



December 5: 7:00 p.m.
Polar Express Night

A free, interactive, family Christmas event!
Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. Call the church office, 708-349-0454, for more information.

December 6: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Holiday Craft Bazaar - Admission is FREE!
Centennial Community Center. Plan a day of one-stop shopping at the Park District's Holiday Bazaar! Find special gifts created by some of the area's finest crafters and designers for someone special on your list! For more info contact the Lemont Park District at 630-257-6787.

December 6: 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Hometown Holiday
Historic Downtown Lemont
A Fun-Filled Afternoon for the Entire Family. For The Day's Schedule of Events, See Page 6.



December 6: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
"Milk & Cookies With Santa"
Franciscan Village, 1270 Village Drive, Lemont. Franciscan Village invites you to join us for "Milk & Cookies With Santa." Admission is FREE. **Reservations are REQUIRED by December 1, 2008. Please call 630-243-3412.** In addition to goodies for each child, there will be door prizes and face painting. 10 to 11:30 a.m.: Visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus; 11 a.m. to noon: "Milk & Cookies" With Santa, 12 noon to 1 p.m.: Childrens Christmas Bingo With Prizes.

December 7: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Lemont Area Historical Society's Annual Christmas Choral Concert and Homemade Cookie Sale – Location: The Old Stone Church, 306 Lemont Street. FREE ADMISSION. Enjoy the harmonies of the season performed by the choirs of Lemont. Delicious homemade holiday cookies available for purchase. For further info call 630-257-2972.

December 13: 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Light - Up Lemont
Historic Downtown Lemont
A Fun-Filled Evening for the Entire Family. For The Night's Schedule of Events, See Page 6.



December 13: 2 Seatings
8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Lemont Junior Woman's Club Hosts its 14th Annual Benefit Breakfast With Santa
Location: Cog Hill Country Club. Guests at each seating enjoy a visit with Santa, story telling from Mrs. Claus, a sleigh ride, and a buffet breakfast. Cost is \$20 for 13 & older, \$10 for age 4-12, \$5 for age 1-3, free under 1. You are also asked to purchase a Christmas gift for a needy child in Lemont. To purchase tickets or for more info, please call Linda at 630-257-0136.

December 14: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Pancake Breakfast With Santa
St. Alphonsus Church Hall, 210 E. Logan. \$6 adults, \$4 kids/seniors. Pictures with Santa are \$2. Call 630-783-2220 for more information.

December 14: 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Cereal With Santa. Lemont Park District.
Centennial Gym. Each child will get to tell Santa what they want for the holidays and get their picture taken with Santa. A unique holiday craft will also be available for each child to complete and take home. \$8 res./\$12 non-res for Pre-Registration. \$2 More Day of Event. For more info, call the Park District at 630-257-6787.

December 14: 4:00 p.m.
LHS Band & Choral Holiday Concert
Lemont High School Performing Arts Center. Students from the Lemont High School band and choral program will spread holiday cheer in this annual concert. For more information, call 630-257-5838.

December 17: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Santa's Calling. Parents should call the Park District office to arrange for a special message for their children. Please call 630-257-6787 after Thanksgiving to register your child.

Dec. 19: 6:00 p.m. - Midnight
Midnight Madness
Historic Downtown Lemont
Escape the malls! Carolers and a traveling trolley add to the fun! For a complete schedule, see Page 6.



Dec. 20 – Jan. 24 – Feb. 28: 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Special Needs Respite Nights
A time of crafts, senory integration, music, snacks and more 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 21: 6:00 p.m.
Annual Carol Sing and Fellowship
An evening of holiday music with the Southwest Community Concert Band and special guests followed by a time of refreshments. Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. Call the church office, 708-349-0454, for more information. Free admission.

January 7: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Holiday House Walk
Location: Franciscan Village, 1270 Village Drive. For additional information and to RSVP, please call 630-243-3500.

January 3: 7:30 to 10:00 p.m.
EDGE Engage Bowl-a-Rama
First Church of the Nazarene. For students in Grades 6-12. For additional information go to nazedge.com or call the church office at 708-349-0454,

January 24: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Annual Band Day Sponsored by Southwest Community Concert Band.
For students in Grades 6-9. For more information go to swcommunityband.com or call the church office at 708-349-0454,

January 31: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
"Let's Connect" Winter Breakfast
Location: Valentine's Bistro, 316 Canal Street. Entertainment by author/musician "Vanessa e." \$13 advance tickets, \$18 at door. For tickets and more info, contact Julie Johnson at 630-243-1898 or email sjohnson22@msn.com. TLC is a non-demoninational group of women whose purpose is to connect women with each other and with Christ.

February 6 & 7: 7:00 p.m. Both Evenings
Lemont High School Winter Play
Location: LHS Performing Arts Center. Call 630-257-5838 for tickets or more information.

February 7: 9:00 a.m. til Full
Seller/Volunteer Registration for Spring Children's Resale – First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. First-come, first-served, \$5 registration fee.

February 14: 6:00 p.m.
Celebrating 60 Years as a Chamber – Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner Dance. Location: Cog Hill. For further info on this very special event, call the Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

February 21: 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 21: St. Alphonsus-St. Patrick School Winter Gala 2009
Location: The Signature Room at Seven Bridges. Auction & 5-Course Dinner. \$55 per person. For tickets or more information, call 630-783-2220.

February 28: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Midwest Music Festival
Location: Lemont High School Performing Arts Center. Some of the state's best bands will descend on LHS for the Midwest Music Festival, the largest concert band festival in the state. For more information, call LHS at 630-257-5838.

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 24 and 25th.
Offices will also be closed on Thursday, January 1.**



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

John F. Piazza

Clerk

Charlene Smollen

Trustees

Debby Blatzer	Clifford Miklos
Peter Coules	Ronald Stapleton
Brian Reaves	Jeanette Virgilio

Village Administrator

Gary C. Holmes

*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

