

Village News

Volume XVI No.4
December 1, 2007

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 1
3:00 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 very Happy 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

Lemont Football Team Makes History

The Lemont High School football team reached the State Championship title game for the first time ever by defeating Oak Forest in the semi-finals on November 17th! The final story line in this historic season had not yet been written at the time this newsletter went to press. Regardless of the outcome of the State Championship (Class 6A) title game, these young men have made all of Lemont extremely proud. On behalf of the Village Board and the entire community, I would like to congratulate Head Coach Eric Michaelson, his staff, and the team on their accomplishments. Congratulations are also due to the High School Board and the school administration.



Veterans Memorial Tollway Open for Business

On November 11, several thousand people attended the Grand Opening of the Veterans Memorial Tollway at the 127th Street interchange in Lemont. Over 5,000 bike riders and over 3,000 runners and walkers participated in the day's events.

If you haven't driven the new extension at this point, you are truly missing out on an amazing experience. As predicted, the traffic patterns throughout Lemont have changed considerably since November 12. Only time will tell if the changes are permanent. However, the traffic on Lemont Road, McCarthy Road, and Route 83 during rush hour appears to be at least 50% less than previously measured.

New Police Station Moves Forward

A good deal of the Board's time during the past year has been devoted to discussion, review and evaluation of construction and financing for a new Police facility. To alleviate the

Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2

From the Mayor's Desk

overcrowded conditions, the department is currently spread between 2 locations; administrative and office functions at the Main Street station, and the operations, investigative and emergency management functions at the former Public Works building on 127th Street. As a temporary solution, this arrangement is acceptable but it is not an effective way for the department to operate.

This spring, the Village will break ground at the Public Works site on 127th Street for a new 29,000 sq. ft. facility capable of housing the current Police Department with room for expansion. Wight & Company has designed the facility at a proposed construction cost of just over \$7 million, and will serve as construction manager for the project. Trustees Cliff Miklos and Brian Reaves served on the ad hoc committee, and the entire Board is in agreement that building this facility cannot be put off any longer.

The Board was determined not to seek a property or sales tax increase to finance the construction. Existing sales tax, utility tax revenues and delay of some of the other capital improvements in the 10 year capital budget, along with a new public safety impact fee assessed on new developments will provide the alternate revenue source for construction bonds.

Vacation of 127th Street between Smith Road and New Avenue.

The Village received notice in October from the DuPage Township Highway Commissioner that a request was being considered for the vacation of 127th Street between Smith Road and New Avenue. I attended the public hearing held on November 3 at the site, along with other officials and residents, to object to the vacation. The Village has approved a formal Resolution of Objection to the vacation and is discussing alternatives with Citgo. While we understand Citgo's security concerns, this connection to New Avenue is critical now that the interchange at 127th Street and I-355 is open.

Year in Review

Looking back over the past year at positive impacts to the community, nothing can top the opening of I-355 for the positive benefit of alleviating a great deal of the congestion on our local roads. Several commercial developments are taking shape and are bringing a variety of new and unique businesses to the village: Lemont Village Square, Derby Plaza, Front Street Lofts and Old Town Square. Capital Improvements during the past year included the annual street resurfacing program, and the major reconstruction of parts of East Street, Logan Street, Walnut Street and Moczygemba Street. The River Road-Front Street improvements are well underway and should be completed by next spring. An additional block of water main was replaced on Illinois Street, wrapping up a successful construction season. The Cook County project on 127th Street will extend into next spring, but 2-way traffic will now remain open for the duration of the project.

I would like to thank the citizens of Lemont for their support of this administration over the past year, especially on the billboard issue. Thanks are also due to those who faithfully serve on our advisory boards and commissions; their contributions are invaluable to the village. And finally, I would like to say a word of thanks to the Village Board members for their total dedication and commitment to this community of Lemont.



Mayor John Piazza

Village Applies For Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The Village has fulfilled all of the requirements of the Government Finance Officers Association, a body that establishes standards for public sector financial reporting, for the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Achieving this certificate is a benchmark for excellence for state and local governments. GFOA standards are recognized nationwide and the certificate signifies superiority in budgetary and accounting practices.

The program requires that state and local governments exceed the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles in preparing comprehensive annual financial reports that provide for full disclosure to the public.

A Certificate is awarded only if the review committee determines that the governmental body seeking the Certificate of Achievement has fulfilled all of the requirements of the GFOA.

Congratulations to Trustee Brian Reaves, Finance Chair, and Village Treasurer Jean Nona on this achievement.



**On behalf of the
Village Board and Staff,
Our very best wishes for
a Happy, Healthy and Safe
Holiday Season!**



"Green Lemont" Initiative Begins

**Kick-Off Event
December 4 - 6:30 p.m.**

Communities across the nation are beginning to examine their carbon footprint and exploring local programs aimed at resource conservation and creating a more sustainable community. Mayor Piazza and the Village Board have begun discussion of this topic with the staff.

The Village is beginning an evaluation of measures aimed at creating a "Green Lemont." The Green Lemont Initiative will partner local government, organizations, and interested citizens to consider various ways that sustainable practices could be adopted and encouraged.

Village Staff will develop a framework plan which will be developed and refined over the next year.

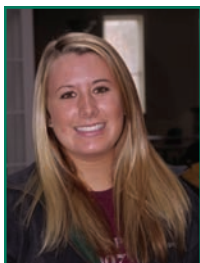
Kick-off Event

Creating a Successful Conservation Community: Creation, Restoration and Maintenance of Natural Areas

**Hosted by the
Planning & Zoning Commission**

**Tuesday December 4, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

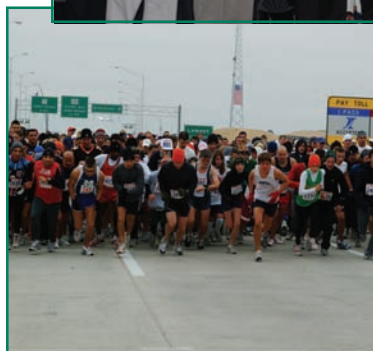
**Board Room
Village Hall, 418 Main Street**



**High School Intern
Researches
Best "Green"
Practices**

Theresa Mikrut, a senior at Lemont High School, has been performing an internship with the Village through the school's professional internship program since September. As her intern project, Theresa is researching best "green" practices that the Village may be able to implement as part of its "Green Lemont" Initiative.

Grand Opening Veterans Memorial Tollway November 11, 2007



*Photos by
Uznanski Creations*

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.

Snow Plowing Procedures

For efficient clearing of ice and snow, village streets, consisting of more than 120 lane miles, have been divided into 8 zones. Certain major streets have been designated as primary routes and are plowed and salted first: State Street and the bridge, Hillview Drive, Stephen Street, Main Street, school bus routes and the downtown area.

As soon as primary routes are cleared, the crews move on to secondary streets, paying special attention to streets with hills. After all streets are open for travel the trucks begin a curbing operation. The goal of the Public Works Department is to remove snow from all streets within six hours after the conclusion of a snowfall.

Salting

Salt is a key element of the snow fighting operation. Salt remains the most cost effective means of breaking the bond between ice and the street, especially with Lemont's unique topography. This operation is critical on curves, hills, bridges and intersections.

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.



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.

*From the
Building Department . . .*

Check Status of Building Permits and Find a Licensed Contractor On-Line

Residents may now check the status of building permits and find a Village-licensed contractor on-line.

Access the Village website at www.lemont.il.us and follow the link to the Building Department, or go directly to www.volbd.com.

Drop down lists of licensed contractors by type (general contractor, electrician, plumber, etc.) are available, or you can type in the name of a particular contractor to see if that contractor is currently licensed, bonded, and insured with the Village.

Homeowners and contractors can also now track the status of a particular permit from the menu.

In the near future, the Building Department will be posting specific requirements for various types of permits on this site. Application forms for many building permits are already available in the Download Directory at www.lemont.il.us.

Unified Development Ordinance in Final Draft

The Unified Development Ordinance combines current regulations on zoning, signs, historic preservation, subdivision and engineering specifications into one volume, making it easier for residents and developers to reference all provisions that might be pertinent to a particular project. The document is now in final draft form and will be ready for approval in December.

The Unified Development Ordinance may be viewed on the Village website at www.lemont.il.us.

Citizen Police Academy Begins January 17

**Registration Deadline
December 14**

The Lemont Police Department welcomes citizens interested in learning more about the law enforcement profession to attend its next Citizen Police Academy. The goal of this special training is to assist citizens in gaining an accurate understanding of police practices.

Six 2-hour training sessions will be offered on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning January 17, 2008. There will be additional sessions for a graduation ceremony and optional field trips to Stateville Prison and the Bureau of Identification.

The class format will include practical demonstrations, hands-on exercises as permitted, and lecture by Lemont Police Department Command staff and patrol officers with expertise in specialized areas.

Have you ever wished you could attempt to find and lift a fingerprint, give a DUI field sobriety test, try on S.W.A.T. gear, or test your reactions in a shoot/don't shoot situation? This is your opportunity to find out.

Classes will be limited to 20 students for this no-fee program. To register or for more information, please contact Officer Therese George at (630) 257-2229.

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

Police Briefs

Police Department Email Alert List

The Village of Lemont and Lemont Police Department are jointly developing an email alert system to communicate local emergency notices to residents. Notifications such as watering restrictions, road closures, weather emergencies, village events, crime alerts and other local issues will be sent via email to all who register. No names are needed, only email address and subdivision information. Residents who live in the central neighborhoods or downtown may identify their location by street name.

Email addresses will NOT be disseminated and will be used for this purpose only. Confidentiality will be maintained.

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.

Police Department Urges Caution on 127th Street



Following the opening of the Tollway interchange at 127th Street, Cook County removed the stop signs on 127th Street at Timberline Drive. Motorists are urged to use caution when traveling this area. School zone and construction zone speed limits are still in effect and will be aggressively enforced by the Police Department. The 127th Street corridor is a major route for school and Park District activities.

Permanent intersection improvements are planned, but until the construction is complete or the stop signs are re-installed, please slow down and use caution.

Local Hearings for Municipal Code and Minor Vehicle Violations to Begin in January

Beginning in January, the Village will begin an administrative adjudication program for minor non-moving vehicle violations and code enforcement violations. This system will be much more convenient for residents than traveling to the Bridgeview Courthouse for these types of violations. Hearings will be held twice a month on Tuesdays at the Village Hall, and three attorneys have been contracted to serve as Hearing Officers. This program will have the added benefit of saving time and travel costs for Police Officers and staff who may have to attend the hearing.

**Do you have a cell phone no longer in use?
Consider donating it to the Lemont Police Dept.
Used cell phones and batteries can
be dropped off during regular business hours.**

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 Gail Brown, the Grant Administrator at (708) 922-4600.

Free Radon Test Kits Available from Cook County

The Cook County Department of Environmental Control is offering free home radon test kits to residents. The EPA and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend testing all homes below the third floor for the presence of naturally occurring radon. The only way to know if your home is healthy is to test it.

Residents may call for a free packet of radon information and a free test kit by calling the Cook County Department of Environmental Control at (708) 865-6177.



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 23rd!

Downtown merchants will feature two special promotions for your gift-giving needs this holiday season! Look for the stocking in the window to identify participating merchants! Starting Friday, November 23rd, 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.

Midnight Madness December 14 6:00 p.m. - Midnight

Downtown merchants will be open until midnight on Friday, December 14th for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Special promotions and holiday gift items will be featured and new this year, arts & crafts vendors, too! Carolers and a traveling trolley add to the fun! Escape the malls and head for Historic Downtown Lemont to finish up your Christmas shopping. Last chance to enter the "Shop Lemont" contest!

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.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY EVENT SERIES

Saturday, December 1st: 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 3:00 p.m. | Tree Decorating Throughout Town |
| 3:00 p.m. | Ice Sculpting Demonstration at Budnik Plaza |
| 3:00 - 3:30 p.m. | Caroling – Girl Scouts |
| 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Horsedrawn Wagon Rides
<i>Starts at Budnik Plaza by the Mural.</i> |
| 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Santa's Elves (Facepainting & Balloons) |
| 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Pictures With Santa |
| 5:00 p.m. | Tree Lighting – Budnik Plaza |

Note: From 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., the Junioresettes will be hosting a Fundraising Event at Safety Village!

Friday, December 14th: 6:00 p.m. til Midnight

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 6:00 p.m. - Midnight | Midnight Madness
<i>Participating merchants stay open until midnight for the convenience of holiday shoppers, and new this year, arts & crafts vendors too! Last chance to get entered into the "Shop Lemont" contest!</i> |
| 7:00 p.m. til ?? | Caroling by St. Pat's Choir |
| 8:00 p.m. - Midnight | Trolley Rides |



December 1: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Craft Bazaar - Admission is FREE!

Centennial Community Center. The Holidays are right around the corner. Why not 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 1: 3:00 - 6:00 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.



ALSO December 1st from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., the Lemont Junioresettes are holding a Fundraising Event at Safety Village. The Junioresettes have planned a fundraising event with FIVE different vendors! This is the perfect opportunity to purchase gifts for your loved ones while enjoying the Hometown Holiday event. All profits will go to benefit the community.

December 2: 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 2: 5:00 p.m.

"The Polar Express" Movie Night

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

**December 8: 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. All families are asked to bring a Christmas present to be given to a local child in need. In addition to being able to visit with Santa, families will enjoy stories with Mrs. Claus, a sleigh ride, and a delicious buffet breakfast. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 children 4-12 years, \$5 children 1-3, and children under 1 are free. For more info or to purchase tickets, call Linda at 630-257-0136.

December 8: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

"Milk & Cookies With Santa"

Franciscan Village, 1260 Village Drive, Lemont. In the Spirit of bringing the children of the past together with the children of the present, Franciscan Village invites you to join us for "Milk & Cookies With Santa." In addition to goodies for each child, there will be door prizes and face painting. Admission is FREE! 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.: A Kids Christmas Bingo With Prizes. For additional info and to RSVP, please call 630-243-3412.

December 8: 6:00 p.m. and

December 9: 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

"Southside Christmas Sunrise"

A family Christmas musical presented by The EDGE Teen Ministries and Kids First Children's Ministries. Free Admission. Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. Call the church office, 708-349-0454, for more information.

December 9: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Breakfast With Santa

Lemont Park District, Centennial Gym. The whole family will enjoy fluffy pancakes, scrambled eggs & sausage. Each child can make a craft to take home, get their face painted, and get their picture taken with Santa. \$6 residents/\$9 non-residents Pre-Registration. \$1 More Day of Event. For more info, call the Park District at 630-257-6787.

December 9: 4:00 p.m.

LHS Annual Holiday Concert

Lemont High School Gymnasium, 800 Porter Street. Students from the Lemont High School band and choral program will spread holiday cheer in this annual concert. Included among the participants will be the Freshman/Sophomore and Junior/Senior Choirs, as well as the Concert and Symphonic Bands. For more information, call 630-257-5838.

December 12: 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. Free-Residents; \$2 Non-Residents. Supported by Lemont Jaycees.

**Friday, December 14: 6:00 p.m. to Midnight
Midnight Madness Sale!**

Historic Downtown Participating Merchants will stay open til midnight for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Arts & crafts vendors, too! Carolers from 7:00 p.m. til ?? and trolley rides from 8:00 p.m. til midnight add to the fun! Escape the malls and head for Historic Downtown Lemont to finish up your Christmas shopping. Don't Miss It!!!



December 16: 5:00 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 3: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Holiday House Walk

Location: Franciscan Village, 1270 Village Drive. Admission is Free. For additional information and to RSVP, please call 630-243-3500.

January 19: 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. AND

February 23: 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Special Needs Respite Nights

A time of crafts, sensory 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.

February 1 & 2: 7:00 p.m. Both Evenings

Lemont High School Winter Play

Location: LHS Commons/Cafeteria. Lemont Drama students will keep the audience in stitches with "Fools" - A Neil Simon work that features a remote Ukrainian town whose residents have been cursed to being stupid. Hilarity ensues as the town asks the question . . . Are we really that dim-witted or are we actually cursed. Tickets: Call 630-257-5838 for more information.

February 9: 9:00 a.m.

Community Registration for Spring Children's Resale

First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. First-come, first-served, \$5 registration fee.

February 16: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Community Blood Drive

First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Call the church office at 708-349-0454 for more information.

February 23: 6:00 p.m.

Celebrating 60 Years as a Chamber – Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner Dance. For further info on this very special event, call the Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

February 23: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Midwest Music Festival

Location: Lemont High School. Some of the state's best bands will descend on LHS for the Midwest Music Festival, the largest concert band festival in the state. Last year, 41 bands from all over Illinois competed for the coveted title of "Grand Champion."

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 Tuesday, 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

