

Volume XV No. 1 March 1, 2006

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 . . .

St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival

March 4th - 1:00 p.m. **Historic Downtown** Lemont

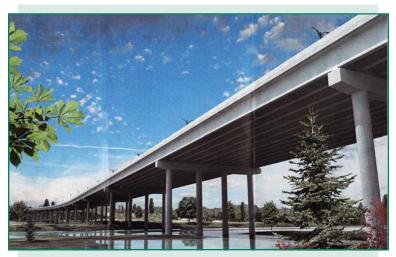




Irish music & dancing at VFW Hall following the parade.

See details on p. 7.

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



The 1.5 mile, six-lane *bridge over the DesPlaines* River Valley will be the longest bridge on the Tollway system. The bridge will be a pre-cast, posttensioned concrete bridge that will rise 60 feet above the ground at its highest point, with 3 lanes in each direction, running from north of Bluff Road to south of New Avenue.

From the Mayor's Desk -

Keeping our Residents Informed

Village residents will now find it easier to keep abreast of new developments and ordinances by checking the Village web site at www.lemont.il.us. In addition to the Village Board agendas posted in advance of each meeting, approved Board minutes will now be posted



following each meeting. Agendas and meeting minutes for all regular meetings of Villageappointed Boards and Commissions are also being posted, including the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Village Board meetings are broadcast live on Channel 6 on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month and re-broadcast the following Thursday.

I-355 Tollway Update

Work is beginning on the 1.5 mile, six-lane DesPlaines River Valley Bridge, scheduled to be completed by fall of 2007. The bridge is the most complicated component of the I-355 South Extension, running from north of Bluff Road to south of New Avenue. Walsh Construction has been awarded a contract to design and construct the bridge, which is expected to be a pre-cast, post-tensioned concrete bridge, rising to 60 feet at its highest point. A utility bridge over the DesPlaines River for construction traffic is in final stages of construction. I'm sure you have all read with interest the coverage in the media regarding the \$20 million local match from the communities and townships fronting the 12 mile South Extension. The Tollway Authority says it will not build the interchanges without the local match. Our main concern is that any local contribution formula would result in an equitable distribution of the cost among all those that will benefit from the tollway extension.

Downtown Redevelopment

The Village is close to finalizing a redevelopment agreement with Marquette Companies for Phase I of the project. Phase I consists of 82 for-sale residential units and 14,830 square feet of retail/office space.

(continued on page 2)

As part of its due diligence on the project, the Village hired Ehlers & Associates to conduct an independent review of the developer's plan and assess the financial feasibility of the project. Based on the findings, the developer has agreed to finance a 272 space parking deck which will be repaid by the new property taxes created from the development area. We are hopeful that you will see construction starting shortly.

Village Budget

The Village Board and staff invest a substantial amount of time from January through March each year in arriving at a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year, and revising priorities for the 5-year spending plan and multi-year capital improvement plan. This year, of the approximately \$25 million budget, about 30% will be earmarked for engineering and construction projects. The annual Road Program will receive funding for several streets in Abbey Oaks and Castlewood subdivisions, while the Reconstruction Program will focus on River Street and Front Street in the Downtown. Construction of the well house for Well #6, replacement of the Main Street culvert, additional water main replacement on Illinois Street and installation of a sanitary relief sewer on First Street will be funded in this budget.

Engineering and preliminary work will be approved for some of the 2007 capital projects: intersection improvements at McCarthy & Archer, McCarthy & Derby, and Derby & Archer; 127th Street from Smith Road to State Street (both projects to be funded through Southwest Conference of Mayors); engineering for reconstruction of Division Street/Singer Avenue, and a major priority of the Village Board – relocation of the Police facility.

Intergovernmental News

Village officials recently attended a meeting with Township and Park District officials to discuss issues of mutual concern and areas where it may be possible to cooperate by sharing resources. No decisions were made, but this kind of open dialog between elected officials can only benefit the Lemont taxpayer.

John F. Piazza, Mayor

Zoning Ordinance to be Updated Workshop on March 6

An ad hoc Zoning Commission has been appointed by the Village Board to begin the process of reviewing and recommending text and map revisions to the existing Zoning Ordinance. The current Zoning Ordinance, drafted in 1999, has been updated several times during the past five years, but is now in need of a major overhaul to eliminate inconsistencies and produce a more usable document. The Commission, composed of Trustees Coules and Miklos, the Chairman of the Zoning Board, and two volunteer citizens, will meet over the next few months.

Citizen comment is an important part of the process. The Public is invited to attend the initial workshop of the Commission on Monday, March 6 at 5:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact Jim Brown, Community Development Director, at (630) 257-1595.

Mayor's Drive for Charity - Monday, April 24

The 2006 Mayor's Drive for Charity, jointly sponsored by Mayor John Piazza and Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, will tee off on Monday, April 24. Two shotgun starts are planned for 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.



\$150 Per Player Includes: 18 Holes & Cart

Cont'l Breakfast or Box Lunch

Buffet Dinner Prizes

Tee Times: **Shotgun Start**

7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Scramble format

Hole sponsorships (\$175), lunch and beverage sponsorships are also being accepted to defray some of the costs of the outing.

One hundred percent of the profits from the outing will be made available to all bona fide Lemont service and non-profit organizations, and recognized community groups. Registration Forms are available at the Village Hall or by calling 630-257-1590.

Mayor to Present State of the Village Report on March 23

The fourth annual State of the Village Report, sponsored by the Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Thursday, March 23 at 11:00 a.m. at Ruffled Feathers. Mayor John Piazza will present information on current and future Village plans and projects.

Tickets (\$35.00 for Chamber members) are available by contacting the Chamber of Commerce office at 101 Main Street (630) 257-5997. Copies of the report will be available at the Village Hall. The report will be taped by Lemont Community T.V. for later broadcast on Channel 6.

Additional information is available from the Chamber at (630) 257-5997.

Village Outsources Plan Review and Building Inspections

Over the past year, the Village Board has analyzed Village services and finances and concluded that outsourcing plan review, building and health inspections is more efficient and cost effective than continuing to provide these services in-house. The level of technical expertise available in the private sector and a more uniform interpretation of the Building Codes are two obvious factors in the decision.

The Village has engaged the services of two firms to provide commercial and residential plan review and building inspections. Cook County will provide health inspections for food services through an intergovernmental agreement. Inspection fees are being adjusted to insure that these services are entirely reimbursed through the fees.

The Community Development Department will continue to issue permits, and provide assistance to residents seeking permits. Limited building inspections as well as plumbing and electrical inspections will continue to be provided by the Community Development Department.



Historic District Survey Completed

Granacki Historic Consultants of Chicago has completed the architectural survey of approximately 235 buildings in the Historic District. The final report and data base are in preparation and will be presented to the Village in mid-March. Buildings have been ranked according to their architectural and historical significance by the consultant with input from the Historic Preservation Commission.



From Charlene Smollen, Village Clerk

Voting Changes Effective with the March 21 Primary Election

Beginning in 2006, Cook County voters will no longer use punch cards. At the polling place, each voter will choose to vote an optical scan or touch screen ballot. Instructions for each method will be available at the polling place.

Early Voting

Beginning with this Primary Election, any registered voter may vote early at the Cook County Clerk's office at 69 W. Washington Street through Thursday, March 16. Call (312) 603-0906 for hours, or visit www.voterinfonet.com for more details. Voters do not need to provide a reason for voting early.

Grace Period Registration & Voting

If you did not register before the February 21 deadline, unregistered voters may sign up to vote in person at the County Clerk's Office at 69 W. Washington Street, Room 500. Two pieces of identification are required. Grace period voters must vote absentee, either in person at the Clerk's downtown office immediately after signing up to vote; or by mail (see below).

Absentee Voting

Applications for absentee ballots are available at the Village Hall and Lemont Township and must be received in the County Clerk's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 16. Residents who plan to be absent from the county on March 21 may cast an in-person absentee ballot at the Bridgeview Mini Center, 10220 S. 76th Avenue in Bridgeview (708) 974-6150. For questions regarding absentee voting, please contact the Cook County Election Department at (312) 603-0944 or visit www.voterinfonet.com

Polling Places March 21 Primary Election



Precinct	Name	Address
001	Slovenian Cultural Center	14252 Main Street
002	Our Lady of Victory Convent	11400 Theresa Drive
003	Lithuanian World Center	14911 127th Street
004	Lemont Township High School	800 Porter Street
005	Lemont Township High School	800 Porter Street
006	Witkoski Recreation Center	1115 Warner Avenue
007	VFW Post 5819	15780 New Avenue
008	VFW Post 5819	15780 New Avenue
009	Lesnieski Center	16050 127th Street
010	Witkoski Recreation Center	1115 Warner Avenue
011	Centennial Recreation Center	16028 127th Street
012	Slovenian Cultural Center	14252 Main Street
013	Lesnieski Center	16050 127th Street
014	Lithuanian World Center	14911 127th Street
015	Lesnieski Center	16050 127th Street

Voters who do not wish to declare a political party in the March 21 Primary Election may request a Non-Partisan Ballot at the polling place which contains only the referendum questions.

March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month

Prepare a Home Tornado Plan

Take a few minutes this month to have a family tornado drill. Designate a safe area where family members should gather – a basement, center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Avoid areas with glass. Keep the chosen area uncluttered. Make sure the disaster kit is kept in this area. Replace batteries in radios and flashlights.

The tornado siren will sound to warn residents of imminent weather emergency in the following situations:

- A tornado, rotating wall cloud or funnel cloud aloft is reported within a ten-mile radius based from the center of Lemont.
- When reported that a tornado has touched down in Lemont Township.
- When wind gusts are clocked in excess of 50 m.p.h.
- Any time the National Weather Service advises a warning which will impact the Village and Township.

Once activated, the sirens will not be reactivated for at least one hour unless a rotating wall cloud, funnel cloud aloft or tornado has been sighted and is a clear and present danger to the Village or Township.

THERE WILL NOT BE AN ALL-CLEAR SIREN.

The Tornado Siren is tested on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

When a Tornado WARNING is issued . . .

- If you are inside, go to the designated safe area.
- If you are outside, hurry to the basement of a nearby sturdy building or lie flat in a ditch or low lying area.
- If you are in a car or mobile home, get out immediately and head for safety (as above).
- Do not attempt to pick up children from school or childcare facilities. They will prepare for a tornado accordingly.

Pet Regulations

Rules Posted at Village Detention Areas



Village Ordinance 356 requires pet owners to clean up after their animals on all public ways and at all public places, including Village-maintained detention areas.

Ordinance O-50-02 prohibits pet owners from walking their pets at any public playground area, picnic area or garden area, or at festivals and special events.

These regulations will be strictly enforced, and the fine for violations can be up to \$500.

Pets being walked on public walkways must be on a leash.

An annual license is required for dogs and cats within the Village. Renewal licenses are on sale beginning June 1 at the Village Hall, 418 Main Street. A valid rabies certificate is required.

Debit Card System For Daily Fee Parking To Be On Line April 1

For the convenience of daily fee commuters on the Heritage Corridor Line, a new Pay Station has been installed at the commuter lot and will be operational on April 1. The new station will accept bills or coins for the fee, but is also set up to accept a debit card with a predetermined amount of time which can be purchased inside the Metra Station. The commuter simply keys in the number of the parking spot, inserts cash or swipes the card to deduct the \$1.00 daily fee. The Pay Station will print a receipt for the commuter.

This new streamlined system will be more convenient for commuters and require less staff time to monitor.



The new Pay Station will accept bills and coins for the \$1.00 daily parking fee or a debit card which can be obtained inside the Metra Station.

For more information regarding the debit card system, please contact the Village Hall at (630) 257-1590.

Severe Weather Preparedness Week March 5 - March 11

A State-wide Torndado Drill will be held on Tuesday, March 7 at 10:00 a.m.

Landscape Waste and Branch/Brush Pick-up to Begin April 1



The landscape waste pick-up program will resume on April 1 and continue through the end of November. Yard waste will be collected on your regular trash pick-up day. To guarantee timely pick-up, landscape waste must be placed in a biodegradable paper landscape waste bag up to 33 gallons in capacity. LANDSCAPE WASTE IN CANS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

Place landscape waste at the curb prior to 6:00 a.m.

Landscape Waste Sticker Required

Stickers may be purchased at the Village Hall, Lemont Township Office, Chipain's, Jewel Foods, Peterson's Hardware, Sears Hardware, and Totura's. **The cost per sticker is \$2.00.**

Branches/Brush

The annual branch/brush pick-up program will begin on April 1 and continue through the end of November. Branches and tree limbs will be picked up on the regular trash pick up day by Waste Management.

BRANCHES MUST BE TIED:

- less than 4 feet in length.
- less than 4 inches in diameter.
- less than 50 pounds.
- tied with biodegradable string/ twine (no wire)

NO LANDSCAPE STICKER IS REQUIRED FOR BRANCHES. THIS IS A FREE SERVICE.

Well #6
on Line
by July 1



Work is progressing on the softening plant and well house for Well # 6. The \$2.7 million facility is scheduled to be on-line by July 1, 2006. Well # 6 will have the capacity to pump an additional 1,000 gallons of water per minute into the Village water system, increasing the water system's pumping capacity to over 6 million gallons per day.



Lemont Environmental Advisory Commission Earth Week

April 22

Motor Oil Recycling Day: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Metra commuter lot at Main Street & Ed Bossert Drive (enter via River Street). Residents may dispose of used motor/fuel/lubricant oil, brake/transmission fluid and antifreeze, which will be processed for additional uses. Sponsored by LEAC, Citgo Petroleum and IMTT.

April 22

- I & M Canal Clean-Up: 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
- **Historic District Tour:** Historical Society 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Historical Society, 306 Lemont Street.
- I & M Canal Walk: Lee Anderson 10:30 a.m.
 Meet on K.A. Steel Road at entrance to Heritage Quarries Trail.

April 19 Arbor Day: Tree planting at River Valley School.

For additional information or to volunteer, please contact Tom Thomas, Chairman, at 630-257-1902 or the Village offices at 630-257-1550.

FREE Landscape Waste Spring Clean-up

April 18, 19, & 20

A special **FREE** Spring Yard Waste Pick-up provided by the Village of Lemont and Waste Management has been scheduled on the **REGULAR TRASH PICK-UP DAY on April 18, 19 and 20.** This is your opportunity to get rid of all the leaves and debris which may have accumulated over the winter.

Yard waste must be placed in paper bags and be at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on your regular trash pick-up day.

NO STICKER REQUIRED

Main Street Culvert Replacement Set to Begin

Persistent flooding in the lower areas along Main Street and New Avenue will be abated with the installation of a new culvert under Main Street on the Fire Department service road north of Totura's. The new culvert will be 2 1/2 times larger than the existing one. Last year, the companion culvert under New Avenue was replaced, and this combination will successfully divert storm water from the area in significant rain events.

The project will begin in March and is expected to be complete before May.

Police Department
Links With SCAN USA
Warning System



Lemont Police Department has recently partnered with SCAN USA, an internet-based public warning system for Police Departments, schools and other public safety agencies to provide emergency alerts to Lemont residents. SCAN, The Safe Community Alert Network, provides you and your neighbors with a tool for better safety, prevention, preparation and awareness.

The SCAN network broadcasts emergency information to computers, mobile phones, pagers and PDA's. With a free registration, residents can now receive immediate alerts for severe weather, natural disasters, health emergencies, neighborhood crime, terrorism, as well as neighborhood public safety information.

To register for this **free** service, simply go to www.scanusa.com and click on "Register for Scan USA." Once registration is complete, you will start receiving alerts from the zip code areas you have chosen.

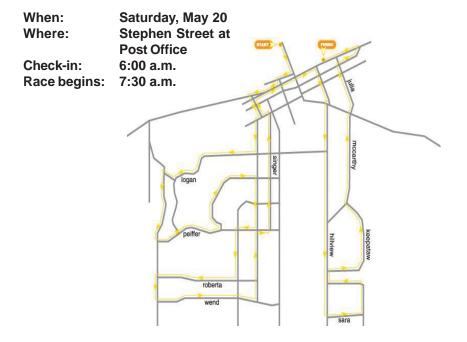
For more information regarding this program, please contact Officer Lee Addante at the Lemont Police Department (630) 257-2229.

The Village of Lemont will host the inaugural Quarryman Challenge 10 Mile Road Race on Saturday, May 20. The course will begin and end in downtown Lemont and winds through the Village's historic residential area. The Quarryman Challenge offers athletes of all abilities, from elites to beginners, a unique and challenging race at the beginning of the mid-west running season.

This USATF-sanctioned race will be coordinated by Ed Kerfin of Human Race Sports in Orland Park, and a committee of members of the Village staff and Lemont Police Department. The organizing committee for this event includes Trustee Jeanette Virgilio, Park District Commissioner Dan Ganzer, Keith Nowakowski, Guy Petruzzelli, Sr. and Dave Fako of Lemont, and Guy Petruzzelli, Jr. of Downers Grove and Nichelle Tang of Naperville.

The committee expects 400 - 500 athletes to participate.

New Event! QUARRYMAN CHALLENGE



For additional information or to register for Quarryman Challenge O6, visit www.quarrymanchallenge.com or call (815) 483-9387.



Sponsored by the Village of Lemont

Carriage Ride for Lemont's &t. Patrick's Day Queen &ponsored by Joe Galica – Paradise Banquets, Bridgeview, Illinois. Flowers Provided for our &t. Patrick's Day Queen by Petal Play Design &tudio, Lemont, Illinois.

March 3: 6th Annual Absolutely Free 3 On 3 Indoor Basketball Tournament

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. For students in Grades 6-12. For further information, call 708-349-0454, Ext. 41 or Adam Lewis, Ext. 40.

March 10: 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Mom-Son Night

Location: Lemont Park District Gym. Games and activities. \$8.00 residents, \$12,00 non-res. For further information, contact the Park District at 630-257-6787.

March 11: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon Fall & Winter Children's Resale

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. Cash only, please; no strollers or children. Registration for sellers takes place on February 11, starting at 9:00 a.m. until full. For more information, call 708-349-0454.

March 12: Noon to 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Location: Lesnieski Center, 16050 127th Street. For tickets, donations, or further information, contact Carol Newton (630-257-7115) or Dianne Butkovich (630-739-1426).

March 17-18: Friday Night/Saturday AM Marriage Tune-Up Conference

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. For more information, call the Church office at 708-349-0454.

March 22: 7:00 p.m. Lemont Area Historical Society Women's History Program

Location: 306 Lemont Street. Presentations by Lemont women in health care profession. For more information, please call 630-257-2972.

March 23: 11:00 a.m. State of the Village Luncheon

Location: Ruffled Feathers Country Club. Advance Registration Required. \$35 Chamber Members, \$45 Non-Members. For further info contact the Chamber at 630-257-5997.

March 25: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Craft Show/Flea Market

Location: Lemont VFW Hall, 15780 New Avenue, Lemont. For further information, contact Diane at 708-387-9501. Admission is FREE!

March 25: Times & Registration TBA Girls' Spa Day

Location: Calvary Chapel, 1375 State Street. Open to Girls K-6th Grade. Makeover, Photo Shoot and Runway Show. Registration Cost: \$10.00. For more information, call 630-257-9333.

April 1: 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Lunch with the Easter Bunny



Location: Lesnieski Center. \$7.00 Res., \$10.50 Non-Res. per person. Tickets are PRE-SALE ONLY! Call the Park District for info (630-257-6787).



April 8: 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 1st Annual "Easter Egg Hunt"

Location: Franciscan Village, 1270 Village Drive, Lemont. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. Door prizes and face painting in addition to goodies for each child. Admission is FREE! Event Schedule:

10:00 - 10:30 Visits with the Easter Bunny

10:30 - 11:30 Easter Egg Hunts

11:30 - 12:30 Entertainment/Refreshments

"Egg Hunt" Schedule:

10:30 a.m. 1 yr. - 4 yr. olds 11:00 a.m. 5 yr. - 8 yr. olds 11:30 a.m. 9 yr. - 12 yr. olds

For questions or additional information, please contact Teresa Sheldon at 630-243-3412 or tsheldon@franciscancommunities.com

April 9: 1:00 p.m. Lemont Jaycees Easter Egg Hunt



Location: Centennial Park. For more info contact the Park District at 630-257-6787.

April 22: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lemont Celebrates Earth Day

For more details, see Pg. 5 of this newsletter.

April 22: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Motor Oil Recycling Day

For more details see Pg. 5 of this newsletter.

April 23: Noon to 5:00 p.m. Lion's Club Annual Chicken Dinner

Location: Lesnieski Center. Tickets: \$6 Seniors, \$7 Adults, \$5 Grade School Children, Preschool Children Free. For further information call Ross Lillwitz at 630-257-7236.

April 24: 7:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Mayor's Drive for Charity

Ruffled Feathers Country Club.

1 Pete Dye Drive. For info: 630-257-1590

April 26: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Professional Staff Luncheon

Location: To Be Announced. Sponsored by the Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce. For more info contact the Chamber at 630-257-5997.

Saturday, May 20! QUARRYMAN CHALLENGE 06

USATF-Sanctioned 10 Mile Road Race

Location: Stephen Street at Post Office Check-In: 6:00 a.m. Race Begins: 7:30 a.m. For additional information or to register for Quarryman Challenge 06, see Pg. 6 of this newsletter and/or visit www.quarryman challenge.com or call 815-483-9387.

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



Planning a Spring Garage Sale?

No Village permit is required for garage sales. Any temporary signs for garage sales must be located on private property (no utility poles or parkways) and must be less than 6 square feet. Signs must be promptly removed after the sale.



Lemont Village News

Village of Lemont
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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