

Volume XV No.4 December 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...

Hometown Holiday Saturday, December 2 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



Mayor John Piazza Charlene Smollen, Clerk

Board of Trustees:

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

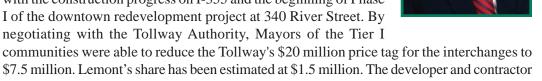
From the Mayor's Desk

a very Happy Holiday Season!

Year in Review

The end of another year provides an opportunity to pause, reflect and assess the past 12 months, and reaffirm the commitment that we as a Village Board have made to the people of Lemont. I am proud to say that this administration's accomplishments in 2006 are on track with the goals we set as a Board almost 6 years ago.

Probably the two most significant advances this year came with the construction progress on I-355 and the beginning of Phase I of the downtown redevelopment project at 340 River Street. By negotiating with the Tollway Authority, Mayors of the Tier I



for the downtown project forecast that units will be ready to occupy by the end of 2007. The Public Works Department moved into its new \$3 million facility at 16680 New Avenue in May. By allowing vehicles and equipment to be stored inside, this modern facility will save money in equipment replacement costs for Lemont taxpayers in the long run, and should provide sufficient space for the department through the next decade.

Well # 6 was completed and on line by July 1, a \$2.7 million investment in the future of the community by increasing the water system's pumping capacity to over 6 million gallons per day. Upgrades to the water & sewer system at Illinois Street, First Street, New Avenue, and 131st Street have made the over 70 mile looped system more efficient. Road improvement



From the Mayor's Desk

projects over the past year included the annual resurfacing program and the \$1.6 million reconstruction of River Street and Front Street in conjunction with the downtown redevelopment project, along with engineering for some of the 2007 projects.



Outsourcing some of the Village building and health inspection services, consolidating the Planning & Zoning Commission, beginning an update of the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance, and a thorough assessment of the Village's financial condition were among the priorities also completed in 2006. Advances and upgrades in technology have made for more productive departments and improved means of communication with our residents.

2007 and Beyond

As a temporary measure to alleviate the overcrowding at the Police Department at 416 Main Street, the Operations Division has been relocated to the old Public Works building, including the investigative division, patrol officers and the emergency management functions.

The Board has interviewed three qualified architectural firms with an eye to beginning the design of a new permanent police facility on the former Public Works site at 127th & Archer Avenue. Once the Board has a better understanding of the financial commitment involved, methods of financing construction will be explored. A building fund was established in the 2006-07 budget.

Another capital project we look forward to completing in 2007 is the Castle Bowl dam project located behind Central School. We were fortunate this year to have escaped any serious flooding like that experienced in 2005, but the completion of this project and the previous measures taken during the past two seasons should provide an increased level of protection from severe flooding in the more flood prone areas of the village.

A special census early in 2007 in the areas of new growth will insure that the Village maximizes the revenue received from state shared funds. At the 2000 census the Village population was counted at 13,098. A special census at the end of 2004 increased that figure to 15,600 residents. In 2007, the Census Bureau will stop conducting special censuses to begin preparations for the next decennial census in 2010, so we will be able to take advantage of three years of increased state revenue based on a more accurate population figure.

Maintaining a progressive and responsive governmental organization takes a true team effort. These goals could not be accomplished without the support of our residents and the dedicated commitment of the Village Board.

John F. Piazza, Mayor

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



Zoning Ordinance Revisions Continue



The Zoning Commission and Community Development Department continue to update the Village's Zoning Ordinance.

Revisions to sections on residential districts, variations, non-conforming uses, and accessory uses have already been completed. These changes will go into effect on January 1, 2007.

The new regulations replace a current overlay district with a new R-4A zoning category, lower the acceptable height of residences, impose a lot coverage restriction, and reduce the permissible bulk of new homes in the older sections of town.

The amendments also provide some relaxed standards for accessory uses, which should allow homeowners more flexibility in the placement and size of such items as swimming pools and decks, and in many cases should eliminate the burden of requesting variations from the ordinance. The update also adds a new section on standards for commercial development.

The Zoning Commission will now turn attention to regulations covering business districts, review and approval procedures, signs, and fences. The Commission regularly meets on the second Monday of the month, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Citizen attendance and participation in the process is encouraged.

Revisions to the Zoning Ordinance may be viewed on the Village website at www.lemont.il.us.



Water Tower Gets a Facelift

This fall, the State Street Water Tower was cleaned, prepped and repainted. A committee consisting of Village Board members and staff met to select a color and design that would best reflect the community and the shape of the existing tower.

The project was put out to bid in September and the low bid was awarded to Maxcor, Inc. of Lockport. The project was completed on October 31.

Don't Feed the Animals



The Village Hall has received reports over the last few months of an abundance of nuisance animals in various neighborhoods in the village. Reports have mentioned skunks, possums, raccoons and coyotes. They may have been displaced from previous habitats by Tollway and other construction.

Residents who scatter food scraps for birds and squirrels are asked to discontinue the practice. Further, we are asking residents to wrap and dispose of any food-related garbage in a securely covered trash container. If there is no source of food, these animals will seek other habitats. Your cooperation is appreciated.

SPECIAL CENSUS PLANNED Spring 2007



The 2004 special census lists Lemont's population at 15,614. However, based on our estimates, the Village's population is already greater than 16,600.

An accurate census matters because state aid sent to municipalities is based on a per capita formula of about \$121.10 per person. If Lemont has grown by 1,000 people since the 2004 special census, which we believe it has, it will mean about \$121,100 more in yearly state aid to the Village. In order to get credit for the increased population, the Village must conduct a special census, and have the population formally certified.

It is imperative that each household that lies within the special census area participate in the process. The Special Census Questionnaire contains only six subjects: name, household relationship, sex, date of birth and age, Hispanic or Latino origin, and race. By participating in the Special Census, you will ensure that your money comes back to the Village to provide local services, instead of being spent by the State of Illinois.

The special census will only be conducted in areas of new growth. However, because the counting is done by census block, some households that participated in the 2000 census and 2004 special census will be counted again.

Generally, the special census will be conducted in areas including, but not limited, to:

- Ashbury Woods 1 and 2
- Covington Knolls 4B, 5, 6A, 7
- Rolling Meadows Phase 3
- Amberwood
- Kensington Estates 1 and 2
- Fordham Hill Estates
- South Pointe
- Briarcliffe
- Mayfair Estates

The Village has already filed the necessary paper work with the Census Bureau and is working to establish a starting date. Tentatively, the census will be conducted in early Spring.

Many community workers will need to be hired to conduct the special census. The Village will start recruiting workers in a couple of months. We will be directly contacting those that applied for the 2004 Special Census. Those who can work twenty hours a week are preferred. Census jobs are temporary in nature. Salaries range from \$9 to \$14 per hour depending on the position.

Census Employment Opportunities

Watch for upcoming job advertisements in local newspapers, Channel 6, and the Village's website at www.lemont.il.us.

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 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-ofway 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 9-1-1. 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.

For Your Safety . . .

Carbon Monoxide Detectors Required Effective January 1

Effective January 1, 2007, every dwelling must be equipped with at least one carbon monoxide alarm within 15 feet of every bedroom. Detectors can be either hard wired or battery operated. A building permit may be required for hard wired detectors.

This Illinois statute applies to single family homes and multi-family buildings using gas or other fossil fuel for heat, ventilation or hot water.

Carbon monoxide is a silent killer. You can't see it or smell it. Do your family a favor if you do not already have a detector.

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.

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
 800-747-2278

Citizen **Police Academy Begins** January 9

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 9, 2006. 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.

Art & Culture Commission Completes Another Public Art Project







Congratulations to the Art & Culture Commission on the completion of their 2006 public art project, the addition of mosaic panels on the Stephen Street bridge pilasters. A dedication ceremony was held on October 7, prior to the commission's Fall Art Festival fund raiser.



Photos Courtesy of Nerdtronica Studios

The mosaics transform thousands of small colored tiles into pastoral scenes of sky, land, trees, water and birds with text related to the project's theme: Blowing in the Wind, Water Under the Bridge: Our hopes for and memories of Lemont. Residents participated in a workshop last May to add texture to clay which was then fired to make some of the tiles used in the project.

This is the third project undertaken by the Art & Festival Commission, chaired by Alice Chin. Commission members are: Robert Moriarty, Mona Parry, Randy Vick and Emily J.B. Christian.

> 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.

Chief Kevin Shaughnessy and Sgt. Greg Smith represented the Lemont Police Department at the International Chiefs of Police Conference in Boston on October 17. The Lemont Police Department received an award for 2nd Place in the Safety Championship Highway Classification for the National Law Enforcement Challenge Awards. Sgt. Smith spearheaded Lemont P.D.'s efforts and is the coordinator for traffic safety issues.



Employment Opportunity

Applications for the position of Police Officer and to estblish an eligibility list will be accepted beginning December 15, 2006. Applicants must be U.S. citizen, age 21 to 34, high school graduate (preference points given for education, military service or previous law enforcement experience) and have a valid driver's license. Attendance at Police Candidate Orientation on Febrary 3, 2007, 8:00 a.m. and physical agility test required. Residency requirements within 2 years within 20 miles of Lemont Police Station. Police Academy training provided unless previously certified.

\$25.00 cash application fee required. Application forms may be picked up at the Village Hall, 418 Main Street beginning December 15, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to noon. Applications must be returned in person at the orientation on February 3. For more information, call (630) 257-1590.

NEW!

Tutor.com

The Friends of the Lemont Library and the Lemont Public Library are co-sponsoring an information tool entitled Tutor.com. Anyone with a valid Lemont Public Library card is eligible to connect with this valuable live homework service. Just click on the Live Homework Help logo on the Lemont Public Library home page, www.lemontlibrary.org. Connecting to a live tutor is as easy as 1, 2, 3! Call the library for further information - 257-6541.





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 24th!

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 November 24th, 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 15 6:00 p.m. - Midnight

Downtown merchants will be open until midnight on Friday, December 15th for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Special promotions and holiday gift items will be featured. 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.



December 2: 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.

December 1: 7:00 p.m. "The Polar Express" Family Night

Come join us for a FUN, family interactive movie night. Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road, Lemont. Call the church office, 708-349-0454, for more information.

December 2: 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 3: 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 3: 6:00 p.m.

information.

An Irish Christmas with The Blair Band First Church of the Nazarene. Tickets: \$10/adults, \$7/seniors (62+) and students (under 12). Call the church office, 708-349-0454, for more

December 10: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

Breakfast With Santa. Lesnieski Center, 16050 127th Street. All Aboard! Santa is making a special stop in Lemont on the Polar Express! Kids will have the opportunity to visit Santa and take part in Polar Express themed activities. Come out and enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausage, face painting, crafts and storytelling. Each child will also get their picture taken with Santa! Admission \$5 per person for residents/\$7 per person for non-residents. Please Note: Pre-Registration is encouraged. Costs will increase \$1 if registering on event day.

December 9: 2 Seatings

8:30 to 11:00 a.m.; & 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lemont Junior Woman's Club Hosts its 13th Annual Benefit Breakfast With Santa. Location: Cog Hill Country Club. Along with the delicious breakfast buffet, we will have story time with Mrs. Claus, a visit and photo with Santa Claus, a horse drawn sleigh ride and a magician that goes to each table. For more info or to purchase tickets, call Linda at 630-257-0135 or Laura at 630-243-6538.

December 9: 6:00 p.m.

December 10: 9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

"The Christmas Late Show with Danny Silverfox." Location: First Church of the Nazarene. A family Christmas musical brought to you by Kids First and EDGE Student Ministries. Call the church office, 708-349-0454, for more information.

December 9: 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, please call Teresa Sheldon at 243-3412 or tsheldon @franciscancommunities.com.

December 10: 4:00 p.m. LHS Annual Holiday Concert

Lemont High School Gymnasium, 800 Porter Street. A family event for all ages. Come sing along with our choir and bands. Admission: Please bring a dry or canned food good for donation to the Lemont Food Pantry. For more information, call 630-257-5838.

December 13: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Santa's Calling. Parents should call 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 15: Midnight Madness Sale! 6:00 p.m. to Midnight

Historic Downtown Participating Merchants will stay open til midnight for the convenience of holiday

shoppers. 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.

December 17: 6:00 p.m.

Southwest Community Band Concert / Sing Along. Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Enjoy the familiar music of Christmas! Light refreshments will be served. Admission: a non-perishable food item (to be donated to the Lemont Food Pantry). For more information call 708-349-0454.

December 27 to 30: Doors open 8:00 a.m. Daily – 29th Annual Christmas Classic Boys Varsity Basketball Tournament

Location: Lemont High School. Enjoy a four-day competition that brings several schools together. Doors open 8:00 a.m. daily and games run through 10:00 p.m. Ticket Info: Call the LHS Athletics office at 630-243-3207.

January 20: 6:00 p.m.

57th Annual Chamber of Commerce
Dinner Dance – Location: Cog Hill Country
Club. For further info, call the Chamber office
at 630-257-5997.

February 8: 6:30 to 10:30 p.m.

McCormick Place. First Look for Charity (Black Tie Required), the Auto Show's benevolent black-tie event. This black-tie affair allows participants to stroll the show floor amid opulence not present during the public portion of the Chicago Auto Show. Abundant hors d'oeuvres, champagne, wine and soft drinks await those getting the first look at the more than 1,000 new vehicles - some on display for the first time anywhere. Tickets available beginning November 1st through Franciscan Village. Please contact Joan Swigon, 630-243-3435, for ticket information.

February 2 & 3: 7:00 p.m. Both Evenings Lemont High School Winter Play

Location: LHS Commons/Cafeteria. It's an evening of "whodunnit's" with a special murder mystery play! Tickets: Call 630-257-5838 for more information.

February 24: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Midwest Music Festival

Location: Lemont High School. Over 30 bands take part in this amazing musical festival. The public is welcome to listen to our own LHS bands and a special guest band at the end of the day. Ticket Info: Call the LHS Music Department at 630-243-3216.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, April 1, 2007 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., A Spring Alive Brunch & Silent Auction at Brookfield Zoo. Advance registrations required on or before March 19, 2007. A limited number of Children's packages are also available. Call Joan Swigon, Franciscan Village, 630-243-

3500, x3435 for reservations & details.

FEEDBACK

Your comments,	suggestions	and concerns	are imp	ortant to	us.	Please	use t	this f	form to	comm	unicate	and
include your nam	ne and addres	ss if you would	d like a	response.								

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



Holiday Hours Village Offices

Village offices will be closed December 25 and 26th.
Offices will also be closed on Monday, 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
Peter Coules
Brian Reaves
Clifford Miklos
Ronald Stapleton
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

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