



Village News

Volume XIV No. 1
March 1, 2005

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 5th - 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



A new Tax Increment Finance District is being created to facilitate redevelopment in the Downtown area. The concept drawing of Phase I proposes mixed use buildings with a parking deck near the I & M Canal. More information is available at the Village Hall or on the Village web site at www.lemont.il.us.

From the Mayor's Desk



It's hard to believe that almost 4 years have passed since I first took office in April of 2001. At that time the citizens of Lemont entrusted me and the Village Board to execute a very specific mandate. The mandate was to effectively manage growth, rezone and improve the property along the I & M and Sanitary and Ship Canals, revitalize the downtown, improve the traffic situation in town, and pursue economic development.

I am proud to say that we have accomplished many of the goals set forth and are well on the way to fulfilling the remainder. At this time, I believe it is important to assess the progress that we have made in each of the aforementioned areas.

Managed Growth

Lemont is a very desirable community that has and will continue to attract a large number of people that want to call it home. The residential development that we have experienced over the past 10 years is unparalleled in the area with respect to the quality of the housing that has been constructed.

New housing permits have been stable over the past 4 years ranging from 187 to 212 per year. This is purely a function of the market and not indicative of the number of housing units approved during the same period. As a point of fact, of the 203 certificates of occupancy issued in 2004, over 60% were in subdivisions approved more than 4 years ago. In the years 2001 to 2003, almost all of the housing permits issued were related to subdivisions approved prior to 2001.

Since April of 2001, we have approved an average of 60 single-family detached units and 60 attached housing units (condos and townhouses) per year. In comparison to the surrounding communities, this is a very modest figure. Additionally, the projects that have been approved have set a new standard of excellence in an already impressive housing market.

Rezoning Canal Front Property

In the summer of 2004, we annexed over 200 acres of property from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and rezoned it from the most intensive industrial zoning classification in Cook County to a very benign commercial/recreational classification in the Village. We are

(continued on page 2)

actively pursuing more acreage and have a commitment from the MWRD that will allow Lemont to dictate the zoning classification. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the 88 acres of land for the Heritage Quarries Park which we leased a couple of years ago. We will continue to improve this area and make it a destination spot for all to enjoy.

Downtown Revitalization

There has already been much press coverage regarding the plans for downtown redevelopment. If all remains on schedule, ground will be broken in late fall for the \$80 million Phase I project, consisting of a 300 car parking deck with mixed commercial and approximately 80 residential units near the I & M Canal. Construction will begin once we have created a new TIF district and adopted a uniform zoning code for the downtown. The entire development will be privately funded with no risk to the tax payers. I am confident that this project will be the catalyst that propels our downtown and the canal district into the vibrant and thriving heart of the community that the residents deserve.

Traffic Solutions

The long awaited and well overdue I-355 extension will soon become a reality. Hard construction is to begin in July of 2005 with an anticipated completion date of November of 2007. The extension will provide the much needed relief with respect to congestion on our local roads. Additionally, the improvement of 127th Street from Smith Road to Archer will be undertaken this Spring. Initially, Lemont was to take over the future maintenance of 127th street; however, we were able to successfully negotiate the project without jurisdictional transfer. This will save the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in future maintenance costs.

Economic Development

As previously mentioned, the revitalization of the downtown is well underway. This will result in a significant increase in sales tax revenue from the retailers and restaurant owners. Additionally, the Village Board recently approved a 43,000 sq. ft. shopping center on the east side of State Street across from the Jewel center which will feature an Ace Hardware, Starbucks and a Cold Stone Creamery. The Board was impressed with the quality of this development which will increase retail opportunities and the sales tax base. We will continue to pursue every avenue of feasible economic development that is compatible with our vision for the future of Lemont. We welcome development that is environmentally friendly and that fills a specific need for the community. As always we will be selective with what we allow to exist in Lemont.

Finally, we will continue to aggressively pursue the eradication of the junkyards on Route 83. With the support of the Attorney General, Cook County Commissioner Gorman, and Senator Radogno, this enormous task will be accomplished during the next few years.

The year 2005 should prove to be a very positive year for the community of Lemont. We are excited to see the projects that we have started move forward to completion. As always we welcome any input or suggestions that you might have to improve the quality of life for the people in Lemont.

– John F. Piazza, Mayor

Mayor's Drive for Charity - Monday, April 25

The 2005 Mayor's Drive for Charity, jointly sponsored by Mayor John Piazza and Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, will tee off on Monday, April 25. Two shotgun starts are planned for 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.



Fees:

\$125 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 17

The Third Annual State of the Village Report, sponsored by the Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Thursday, March 17 at 11:30 a.m. at Ruffled Feathers. Mayor John Piazza will present information on current and future Village plans and projects.

Tickets (\$25.00 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.



One of 14 chairs being raffled off by the Art & Culture Commission.

Art & Culture Commission to Raffle Chairs for Art

Members of The Art & Culture Commission have turned chairs from the former Tedens Opera House into works of art and will raffle them off to finance 12 additional mosaic planters for the downtown. The entire collection of 14 chairs will be displayed from March 1st - 26th at Artful Gatherings, 106 Stephen Street.

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each and may be purchased at downtown stores or at the Village Hall. Tickets may be purchased for a particular chair, or any chair in the collection.

The winning tickets will be drawn at the Mayor's Drive for Charity on April 25.



The Commission's goal is to produce 12 additional planters.



From Charlene Smollen, Village Clerk

Voter Registration Closes March 8

In order to cast a ballot in the April 5 Consolidated election, voters must be registered by Tuesday March 8. Residents may register in person during business hours at the following locations:

Lemont Village Hall	418 Main Street	257-1550
Lemont Township	16020 127th Street	257-2522
Lemont Public Library	50 E. Wend Street	257-6541

Not sure if you are registered? Voters may now check their voting eligibility on line at www.voterinfont.com or by calling (312) 603-0906.

Polling Places April 5 Consolidated 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

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 31. Residents who plan to be absent from the county on April 5 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.

Election Signs

Political campaign signs must be located on private property and may not exceed 16 square feet in area. Signs may be erected not more than 30 days before the election and must be removed within 3 days after the election. No signs are permitted in parkways, on phone poles, or in the public right of way.



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.

When a Tornado WATCH is issued . . .

- Listen to local radio and TV stations for further updates.
- Be alert for changing weather conditions.
- Blowing debris or the sound of an approaching tornado may alert you. Many people say the sound of a tornado is like a freight train.

When a Tornado WARNING is issued . . .

- If you are inside, go to the designated safe area. The tornado may be approaching your 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.

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

Police Department INITIAL RESPONSE PROGRAM



Thirty-five Medical Alert Bracelets have been distributed through this program to date.

Reaction to the Initial Response Program, which began in January to identify seniors and those with special medical needs in the event of an emergency, has been very positive. Thirty-five medical alert bracelets have been distributed by the Police Department to date. The numbered I.D. bracelet corresponds to information provided to Police and Fire Departments and identifies the wearer to emergency response personnel in the event of an emergency. Medical information can be immediately accessed when seconds count.

The program, originally geared to seniors, has been expanded to include any resident with special needs. Registration forms are available at the Police Department, 416 Main Street or on line at www.lemont.il.us.

For more information on this program, please call 630-257-2229.

What You Should Know About Tornadoes

Assemble a Disaster Supplies Kit Containing:

- First aid kit and essential medications.
- Canned food and manual can opener.
- Drinking water.
- Clothing, bedding or sleeping bags.
- Battery-powered AM radio, flashlight and extra batteries.
- Special items for infant, elderly, or disabled family members.
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so. (Remember, you may need a professional to turn gas service back on.)
- A commercially available Weather Radio for National Weather Service Announcements. (Approximate cost is \$25.00). Make sure to replace the batteries at least annually.



Stay Tuned for Storm Warnings:

- Listen to your local radio and TV stations for updated storm information.
- Know what a tornado WATCH and tornado WARNING means:
 - A **Tornado WATCH** means a tornado is possible in your area.
 - A **Tornado WARNING** means a tornado has been sighted and may be headed for your area. Go to a safe area immediately.

Police Department Wants Used Cell Phones and Batteries

The Police Department is collecting used cell phones and their batteries, which can be redeemed through Pace Butler Corporation to support Police Department crime prevention and D.A.R.E. programs. Cell phones and batteries can be dropped off at the Police Department, 416 Main Street or at the Village Hall.

For more information, contact the Police Department at 630-257-2229.

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.



Lemont Celebrates Earth Week

The Lemont Environmental Advisory Commission (LEAC)'s Earth Day Committee has planned several community events in honor of Earth Week. Get your group together to volunteer for this Springtime community project.

April 16 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 16**
- **I & M Canal Clean-Up:** 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Create a "picnic grove" and clean-up at Heritage Quarries. Meet on K.A. Steel Road.
 - **Historic District Walk:** Historical Society – 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Historical Society.
 - **I & M Canal Walk:** Lee Anderson – 10:30 a.m. Meet at Safety Village.
 - **Abandoned Car Removal** – 11:00 a.m. Police Dept. will remove abandoned auto from the quarry.
 - **Refreshments and Exhibits:** 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Safety Village.

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

Planning meetings are scheduled for **March 10, March 23 and April 7, 6:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.** 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 19, 20, & 21

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 19, 20 and 21.** 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

Construction of New Public Works Facility To Begin this Spring

Construction of a new 38,000 sq. ft. Public Works facility will begin as soon as weather permits. The Village recently approved a contract with Carlson Brothers, Inc. of Joliet to design and build the \$3 million facility.

The new building will be located on New Avenue, east of the proposed I-355 extension and will contain over 23,000 sq. ft. of vehicle storage as well as an adjacent salt storage building. The ability to store equipment indoors helps cut replacement costs. The facility should be completed and ready for occupancy before the end of the year.

Bonds were issued last fall to finance construction of the new facility. Additional information on this project is available from Dan Fielding, Director of Public Works, at (630) 257-2532.



Architect's rendering of new Public Works facility on New Avenue

2005 Road Reconstruction

With the end of winter, reconstruction season is right around the corner. Roads scheduled for complete reconstruction in the 2005 construction season are as follows:

- **Czacki Street**
McCarthy to Schultz
- **Moczygemba Street**
Czacki to Ledochowski
- **Division Street**
Division Court to Czacki
- **East Street**
Logan Street to the south end.

2005 Road Resurfacing

The following streets are scheduled for mill and overlay resurfacing in the 2005 construction season:

- **Keepataw Drive**
State Street to Hillview
- **Cherokee Place**
- **Kim Place**
- **Kip Place**
South of Keepataw
- **Rose Hill Drive**
- **Florence Street**
Wend Street to Peiffer Avenue
- **Jane Avenue**
- **Jane Court**

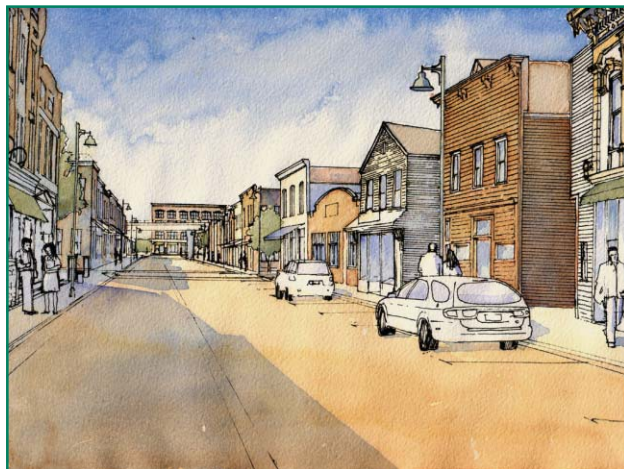
Affected residents will be notified prior to start of construction for these projects.

Downtown Redevelopment Plans Move Forward

On January 10, Dover Kohl & Partners presented a preliminary Master Plan for the downtown. The plan was required by the Village Board after entering into a Pre-redevelopment Agreement with Marquette Properties for a Phase I project on River Road involving construction of a 300 space parking deck with mixed use residential and commercial units on River Road at an approximate cost of \$80 million.

The master plan divides the downtown into 4 distinct areas and presents options for development to enhance these areas. Key to the plan is expanded residential density.

The next step in the process is creation of a new tax increment finance (TIF) district. The increment from the TIF will be used to repay the developer for any public improvements in the district. Bonds will be issued to refund debt in the existing TIF. A public hearing will be held on March 28 at 6:00



p.m. at the Village Hall.

Once the TIF is in place, work will begin on a uniform zoning code for the area which will also require a public hearing before adoption.

A map of the proposed TIF District and the Downtown Draft Master Plan are available on the Village web site at www.lemont.il.us.



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

PARADE & IRISH FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 5 - 1:00 PM

Historic Downtown Lemont
Featuring **Chicago Stockyard Kilty Band & Lemont's Own Irish Queen, Shannon Duffy.**

Parade Route

Line-up at Lemont Safety Village 12:30 p.m.
South on Stephen to Main Street, West to V.F.W. Hall,
15780 New Avenue.

ENTERTAINMENT AFTER THE PARADE

Visit the V.F.W. Hall for great family fun!

- 2:00 Irish Dancing
- 3:00 Three Men In Kilts
- 3:00 Soda Bread Contest

Fun!

Music

Sponsored by the Village of Lemont

Our Advertising Sponsor: 95.9 The River



Carriage Ride for Lemont's St. Patrick's Day
Queen Sponsored by Joe Galicia -
Paradise Banquets, Bridgeview, Illinois.

March 4: 5:00 p.m. (Ages 12-14) & March 5: 8:30 a.m. (Ages 15-18) 5th Annual Absolutely Free 3 On 3 Indoor Basketball Tournament

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Contact the First Nazarene office for registration forms or go to NazEdge.com. For further information, call 708-349-0454.

March 5: 12:30 p.m. Theater for Children Featuring The Adventures of Tom Sawyer

Location: Park District Gym. PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY! \$5.00 per person. Kids 2 & Under Free! **Rebate: Bring in 3 dry goods for the Lemont Food Pantry and receive \$1.00 back at the door (limit 1 discount per family).** For more info call the Park District office at 630-257-6787.

March 12: 9:00 a.m. to Noon Girls' Spa Day

Location: Calvary Chapel, 1375 State Street. Girls 5-12 invited for a day of pampering. Includes breakfast, a personal spa kit, manicure, pedicure, hair styling, photo shoot & more. Sponsored by Lemont area salons and businesses. Registration: \$7.00. For information, call 630-257-9333.

March 13: Noon to 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Location: Lesnieski Center, 16050 127th Street. For tickets or for further information, contact Laurie Schmitz at 630-257-8325.

March 17: 11:30 a.m. State of the Village Luncheon

Location: Ruffled Feathers Country Club.
Advance Registration Required. For registration information contact the Chamber of Commerce at 630-257-5997.

March 18: 7:00 p.m.; March 19: 6:00 p.m.; and March 20: 6:00 p.m. Passion Play 2005

Location: First Church of the Nazarene. Free admission. For further information call the First Nazarene office at 708-349-0454.

March 19: 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A Fighting Chance - Preventing & Escaping Abduction Program

Location: Lemont Village Hall. **Advance Registration Required.** Cost: \$20.00, includes lunch. A proactive, hands on program that deals with prevention, escape & survival of abduction in an empowering manner for 9-15 year olds. For more info contact Shannon Demack at 630-243-6478.

March 19: 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! For more information contact the Park District at 630-257-6787.

Spring Events



March 20: (Palm Sunday) 1:00 p.m. Lemont Jaycees Easter Egg Hunt

Location: Centennial Park. For more info contact the Park District at 630-257-6787. **Bring a non-perishable food item for the Lemont Food Pantry and/or clothing for the Tsunami Relief Fund.**

Rain Date: March 26th.



April 9: 8:30 a.m. to Noon Spring Jam - Cost: \$2.00 Per Person.

Location: Lemont High School Gymnasium. Featuring Univ. of Illinois basketball star, Roger Powell. Friends of all ages invited for a morning of food, prizes, and activities. Hosted by Calvary Chapel, sponsored by Lemont area businesses. Benefiting local charities. For more information, visit www.springjam.net or call 630-257-9333.

April 10: 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 16: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lemont Celebrates Earth Day

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



April 16: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Motor Oil Recycling Day

For more details see Pg. 5 of this newsletter.

April 17: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. "A Spring Alive Benefit & Silent Auction"

Location: Ruffled Feathers Country Club. **Advance Registration Required by April 1, 2005.** For further info call the Franciscan Village Development Office at 630-243-3435.

April 27: 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.

April 25: 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.



Coming in June! Watch for Information:

American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Lemont/Homer Glen Kicks Off 1st Event! **Join the fight against cancer, form a Relay for Life team today!** The Relay for Life will be held on **June 17th-18th** at Lemont High School. For more info contact Marianne Gniadek at (708) 633-7770.

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
418 Main Street Lemont, IL 60439-3788
630-257-1550
FAX 630 257-1598
email: vlemont@lemont.il.us
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Mayor

John F. Piazza

Clerk

Charlene Smollen

Trustees

Debby Blatzer	Steven Rosendahl
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