



Village News

Volume XIV No.4
December 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 . . .

Hometown Holiday
Saturday, December 3
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Downtown Lemont

Tree Lighting
5:00 p.m.
Budnik Plaza

Midnight Madness
Shop-a-Thon
Friday, December 16
6:00 p.m. - Midnight

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

The past year has been a year of challenges and rewards for the Village Board. I am humbled and grateful that the citizens have awarded this administration another 4 years to continue and finish the very ambitious agenda we have set for the Village.

Some very significant accomplishments are well on the way to completion. The Public Works Department expects to be moved into the new facility on New Avenue by the end of December, lock, stock and snowplows. We would like to acknowledge property owners for permitting the easements to extend water and sewer main along New Avenue to the site.

Road construction projects will continue as long as weather permits. The latest schedule from the Tollway calls for earthwork to begin prior to the end of the year on the DesPlaines Valley bridge, and construction roads are underway along the length of the tollway. We have been successful in our efforts with the Southwest Conference of Mayors to secure funding and a construction schedule for improvements to 127th Street from Smith Road to State Street to coincide with Tollway construction.

Another successful annual road program has wrapped up with about 3.5 miles of streets resurfaced. Twelve additional alleys have been transformed from gravel to asphalt, and Czacki Street/Division Court and Hermes Street have been reconstructed. Additionally, 10,200 feet of water main has been replaced, and 3,000 feet of sewer line was separated. Extension of water main from Parker Road to Maley, a long-time ambition of the Village Board, will be



Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2

From the Mayor's Desk

completed with private funding through a recapture agreement.

After some construction delays, Cook County has notified us that two-way traffic will be restored on 127th Street by the end of the first week in December, if not sooner. The final course of asphalt will be applied in the spring.

One of the Board's highest priorities is increasing commercial and retail development in the Village that is compatible with community needs. With the completion of the projects we have already approved, over 70 additional commercial/retail units are near completion or will be constructed over the next year.

The downtown redevelopment project has been discussed at great length during the past year. We are anticipating that Phase I of the project will commence in the early spring of next year. We are committed to doing everything within our power to invigorate the downtown while respecting its historic features at all times.

Financially, the Village is on sound footing. The Board has expended a great deal of time and effort this past year examining expenditures and fee structures to be sure that taxpayer dollars are used as wisely as possible.

It should be noted that we still have many challenges and issues that need to be resolved in the next few years. One of the most pressing issues is the relocation of the badly overcrowded police headquarters. We hope to resolve this and other pressing issues over the coming year.

As we close out 2005, I want to mention a word of thanks to the citizens who serve on Village review boards and commissions. We all lead busy lives, but these citizens make the time to become involved in the planning, development, environmental monitoring, preservation and public safety of the community. A special word of praise goes to the Art & Culture Commission on the completion of four additional mosaic planters. I urge everyone to take the time to view the planters, located along Stephen Street. I guarantee you will be impressed with both the artistry and the workmanship.

Finally, on behalf of the Village Board and staff, our best wishes for a happy, healthy and safe holiday season.

John Piazza, Mayor

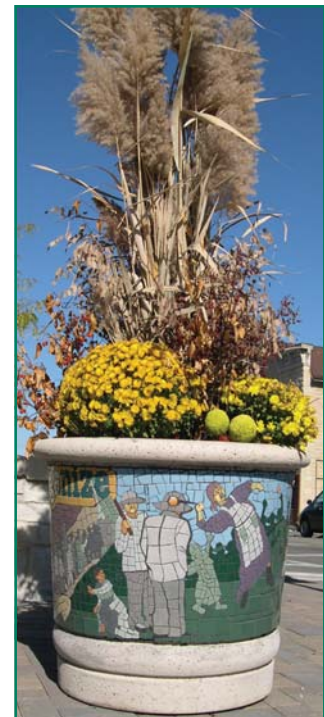
Art & Culture Commission Completes 4 New Planters

On October 29, the Art & Culture Commission formally dedicated 4 new mosaic planters to complement the 2 previously installed in front of Village Hall. The planters have been installed along Stephen Street north of Canal Street, and represent historic events in mosaic tile. Construction of the I & M Canal, the Sanitary & Ship Canal, the Quarry Workers Strike and Massacre and Smokey Row were selected by the Commission to be depicted on these artful vessels.

Over two months and in excess of 1,000 hours have been invested in the project by Commission members Alice Chin, Rob Moriarty, Mona Parry, Emily J.B. Christian and Randy Vick. Rob Moriarty served as lead artist with assistant artists Mona Parry, Loreen Hospodar, Kim Gedminas-Moriarty and Mike Gedminas. Lemont High School student apprentices Joseph Deardurff, Lori Ludwig, and Megan Skopec provided assistance with the project.

The Commission's goal is to complete 6 additional planters for the downtown. For more information, please contact Alice Chin, Commission Chair at (630) 257-8888.

New Planters on Stephen Street



Citizen Police Academy Begins January 19

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 and the men and women who serve the Lemont community.

Five 2-hour training sessions will be offered on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. beginning January 19, 2006. There will be an additional session for a graduation ceremony and optional field trips to other law enforcement areas of interest, such as 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, 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.**

Tips from the Police Department

As the holiday season approaches, the Police Department reminds you of a few tips to keep your holiday season safe and enjoyable. Never give your credit card information over the telephone unless YOU initiated the call. Protect your PIN number when entering it into ATMs and retail store terminal locations.



Lock your vehicle at all times and whenever possible park in well-lit areas in shopping center parking lots. Place holiday shopping packages in the trunk and never leave your purse or wallet on the front seat of your vehicle.

Double check monthly credit card statements for accuracy. Identity theft can strike anyone.

Never leave your car unlocked even on your own property. This simple practice will help reduce the number of thefts from vehicles and save you money, time and headaches.

Finally, the spirit of the holidays is best enjoyed by those who travel with two important convictions: ALWAYS use your seatbelt and NEVER drink and drive!

Chief Kevin Shaughnessy

**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.**

Police Department to Partner with Illinois State Police in Pilot Program

The Lemont Police Department has been asked to partner with the Illinois State Police in the statewide introduction of a high tech program known as I-CLEAR or Illinois Citizen and Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting. This cutting edge program provides the technology to access and share arrest and crime incident information from every location in the state instantly via in-car computers. Lemont Police Department will be part of this statewide program in testing the system, tracking and reporting on suspects involved in petty theft to acts of terrorism.

The I-CLEAR project is being funded primarily through U.S. Department of Homeland Security funds from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The Police Department's involvement with I-CLEAR and the Illinois State Police furthers the department's goal to enhance technology and become a leader in applying today's technology to provide a safer and more secure community for the residents of Lemont.

**Buckle Up
Every Trip, Every Time
Seatbelts Save Lives**

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.

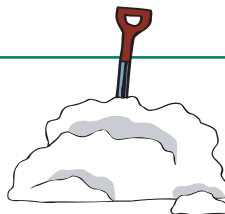
Watch Channel 6

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.



How Can Residents Assist With Snow Removal?

- Observe winter parking regulations. **REMOVE CARS FROM THE STREET WHERE POSSIBLE.**
- Clear snow to the **RIGHT SIDE OF THE DRIVEWAY** (when facing the street). By clearing snow in this manner you will avoid having the driveway plowed in when the plows make a second pass to clear the street all the way to the curb.
- Avoid clearing snow from your driveway back into the street. This can create a safety hazard, and also result in the plows pushing more snow into your neighbor's driveway.
- Adopt the fire hydrant closest to your home to assist fire equipment in the event of an emergency.

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. Any grassy areas damaged by plows will be identified and repaired next spring.

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.

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 |



Village Improves Public Protection Classification

Village residents should be **paying less** for their property/casualty insurance due to an improved Public Protection Classification rating by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Most insurers use the Public Protection Classifications for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial and industrial properties.

Periodically, the Village's fire suppression and water supply systems are reviewed by ISO. Specifically, the Fire Department and the Village's water delivery systems are analyzed and measured against standards devised by the insurance industry. The most recent analysis resulted in an overall Public Protection Classification of 3 on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the best score. Lemont's previous overall rating was 6.

The water delivery system, which is the Village component of the overall rating, scored 37.06 points out of a possible 40 points. This means that the Village's investment in upgrading the water system has paid off in dividends for the residents.

For additional information on the Public Protection Classification Rating, please contact Dan Fielding, Director of Public Works, at (630) 257-2532.

Public Works Projects

New Public Works Building Ready for Occupancy Soon



The New Public Works facility at 16680 New Avenue will be ready for occupancy by the end of the year.



Twelve additional alleys were paved by Public Works during this construction season.

To report street light outages or for additional information on these projects, please contact the Public Works Department at 630-257-2532 or via e-mail at publicworks@lemont.il.us.

Village to Update Comprehensive Plan

The Village Board has directed the Plan Commission to begin an update of the 2002 Comprehensive Plan. Three areas will be reviewed for possible amendment: The I-355 tollway area from New Avenue through the 127th Street interchange; the I-355 interchange area along 127th Street to State Street; and the area at the intersection of Route 83 and Archer Avenue. All three areas are gateways to Lemont. The reality of the I-355 construction and resulting realignment of priorities are very good reasons to review and amend the Plan at this time.

Public input will be solicited to arrive at an updated land use document in the best interest of the community. The process may take between three and six months. Residents are urged to remain informed and get involved in planning for Lemont's future.



Winter Energy Saving Tips

If predictions hold true on the cost of energy this winter, using these tips will help cut your energy bills:

- Turn thermostats to 68 degrees or lower while you are at work.
- Open drapes during the day to use solar heating; close at night for insulation.
- Replace or clean furnace filters once a month.
- Reduce hot water heater temperature to "normal" or 120 degrees.
- Insulate the first five feet of pipe coming out of the top of your water heater and/or wrap the hot water tank with jacket insulation, especially if older.
- Seal up leaks around windows and doors.
- Seal gaps around pipe or vents in walls. Check bathrooms, under the sink, basement or closets.
- Turn off lights when you leave the room.
- Shorten shower time. This accounts for 2/3 of your water heating costs.
- Use appliances efficiently – full loads only in your dishwasher or clothes washer. Clean dryer lint trap frequently.



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 25th!

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 25th, 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. With a \$30 purchase, receive a "made for Lemont" shopping bag!

Midnight Madness December 16 6:00 p.m. - Midnight

Downtown merchants will be open until midnight on Friday, December 16th for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Special promotions and holiday gift items will be featured. Carolers and horsedrawn wagon rides 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 3rd: 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. | Girl Scouts Community Service Unit 24 will be providing complimentary hot chocolate & cookies throughout the afternoon. |
| 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Horsedrawn Wagon Rides
<i>Starts at Budnik Plaza by the Mural.</i> |
| 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. | Santa's Elves (Facepainting & Balloons) |
| 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. | Pictures With Santa |
| 5:00 p.m. | Tree Lighting – Budnik Plaza |

Friday, December 16th: 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. Last chance to get entered into the "Shop Lemont" contest!</i> |
| 8:00 p.m. - Midnight | Horsedrawn Wagon Rides |

December 3: 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 3: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Holiday Craft Bazaar

Centennial Community Center. Sponsored by Lemont Park District. For info contact the Park District at 630-257-6787. Admission is FREE.

December 4: 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Breakfast With Santa. Requires Pre-Registration.

Lesnieski Center, 16050 127th Street. For further information call the Park District at 630-257-6787.

December 4: 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Lemont Area Historical Society 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 4: 6:00 p.m.
Stars and Promises 2005 - An Intimate Christmas Concert Like No Other.

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

December 10: 2 Seatings
8:30 to 11:00 a.m.; and 11:30 to 2:00 p.m.
Lemont Junior Woman's Club Hosts its 12th Annual Benefit Breakfast With Santa.
 Location: Cog Hill Country Club. The fun includes buffet breakfast, photo with Santa, sleigh rides and activities for children including stories read by Mrs. Claus. For more info or to purchase tickets, call 630-243-6538.

December 10: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Lemont Dist. 113A PTA Hosts Its Annual Santa's Secret Shop
 Location: River Valley School. Fun for the entire family! Visit with Santa and shop at Santa's Secret Shop, games, prizes and craft show. For further information, call Cindy at 630-243-8137.

December 10: 6:00 p.m. and
December 11: 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
"Stealing Christmas" Christmas Musical
 Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. An original Christmas musical featuring our children and teens. For further information call 708-349-0454.

December 11: 5:00 p.m.
Lemont High School Band/Choir Concert
 Lemont High School Gymnasium, 800 Porter Street. Cost: FREE; attendees are encouraged to bring canned or dry goods or paper products to be donated to the Lemont Food Pantry. For more information, call 630-257-5838.

December 11: 6:00 p.m.
Southwest Community Concert Band Christmas Concert

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Tickets available at the church office. \$9 adults; Students 12 & Under FREE. For more info call the church office at 708-349-0454.

Friday, December 16:
Midnight Madness Sale
6:00 p.m. til Midnight

Historic Downtown
 Participating Merchants will stay open til midnight for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Horsedrawn wagon rides will run from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Escape the malls and head for Historic Downtown Lemont to finish up your Christmas shopping.



December 17: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
"Milk & Cookies With Santa"
 Location: Franciscan Village, 1260 Village Drive. Goodies for each child, door prizes and face painting. Admission is FREE! 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus; 10 to 11 a.m., "Milk & Cookies with Santa;" 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., A Kids Christmas Bingo with Prizes. For additional information, call Teresa Sheldon at 630-243-3412.

December 17: 6:00 p.m. and
December 18: 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Just A Name?

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. A special offering of music and drama presented by the Bridge Team, Celebration Choir & Orchestra, and Jubal Players. For more information call the church at 708-349-0454.

December 18: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Annual Carol Sing and Fellowship
 Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Everyone will enjoy this time of sharing in the familiar songs of Christmas. Light refreshments will be served at the end of the evening. For more information call 708-349-0454.

December 27 to 30: 8:45 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
28th Annual Christmas Classic
 Location: Lemont High School. Take part in the spirit of competition as 18 boys varsity basketball teams battle it out in a series of games throughout the day. Tickets at door: \$4 adults; \$3 students/children. Family 4-packs available: \$40 for all 4 days. Call 630-257-5838 for further information.



Tuesday, January 17: 7:00 p.m.
Lemont-Bromberek CSD 113A PTA Presents "A Historical Perspective of Abraham Lincoln"

Location: Oakwood School Gym. Open to the community. For more information, contact Laura Swalec, District 113A PTA at 630-243-1044.

January 19 to 22:
Thursday - Friday - Saturday: 8:00 p.m.
Sunday: 3:30 p.m. NightBlue Theater of Lemont Park District is Proud to Announce Its First Production of 2006 - CABARET
 Location: Lesnieski Center, 16050 127th Street. General admission tickets: \$18. Cash bar and light appetizers available. For further info, call the Park District at 630-257-6787. *Adult content.- May not be suitable for children under 17 years of age. Must be 21 to purchase alcohol.

January 21:
56th Annual Dinner Dance
 Location: Cog Hill Country Club. For further info, call the Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

February 3: 2nd Annual Girls Night Out
 Location: Downtown Lemont. Mark the date now for a night of shopping, food and fun with your girlfriends. Sponsored by LJWC.

February 4: LJWC Safety Village Programs Offer Preventing and Escaping Abduction Program "PEAP"
 Location: Village Hall. Program is for 9 to 13 year olds and is taught by the Lemont Police and Fire Departments. For further information, please call 630-257-4750.

February 5: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Polish Heritage Day
 Location: SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish Hall, 608 Sobieski Street. For further information, please call 630-243-1848.

February 10 & 11: 7:00 p.m.
Lemont High School Winter Play
 Location: Lemont High School Auditorium. Tickets at door: \$5 adults, \$2 senior citizens, children and students with ID. For info, call 630-257-5838.

February 17 & 18: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Lions Cabaret Show
 Location: Lesnieski Center. For more information, contact Rae Dyer at 630-257-2008.

February 26: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Midwest Music Band Festival
 Location: Lemont High School Auditorium. Tickets at door: \$7 adults, \$4 senior citizens, children and students with ID. For further information, call 630-257-5838.

FEEDBACK

Your comments, suggestions and concerns are important to us. Please use this form to communicate and include your name and address if you would like a response.

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



Holiday Hours Village Offices

Village offices will be closed December 23 through Monday, December 26. Offices will also be closed on Monday, January 2.



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
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60439
Permit No. 89*

Postal Customer
Lemont, IL 60439

