



Village News

Volume XIII No. 1
March 1, 2004

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 6th - 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



Heritage Quarries Park wins two APWA awards.
See story on page 3.

From the Mayor's Desk

Mayor Leads Task Force on Junkyard Clean-Up



Wouldn't it be nice to drive along Route 83 during the summer with your window open and not view the mountains of junk cars, old tires and scrap metal as you approach the intersection of Archer Avenue and Route 83 in unincorporated Lemont Township? If a recently formed multi-jurisdictional task force has its way, the face of that area will be changed forever.

I am serving on the task force with State Senator Christine Radogno, State Representative Eileen Lyons, Cook County Commissioner Liz Gorman, representatives from the IEPA, the Attorney General's Office, and the Chairman of Lemont's Zoning Board, Ed Buettner.

The area has been an eyesore for the residents in the surrounding communities for decades. During the past year, I made several inquiries to gain an understanding of how the conditions in that area were allowed to exist. Recently I was able to secure archived documents from the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals and was stunned with what I discovered. Amazingly, the property known as Cal Sag Auto was given a special use permit to operate on 3.8 acres of land in 1975; however, the owner admits that his current operation sprawls over 40 acres of land.

Our investigation also unearthed the fact that the Attorney General's Office, on behalf of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, was successful in getting a Consent Order issued in May of 2001. The court order cites numerous violations of the IEPA regulations and standards. The IEPA performed another site inspection in January of this year and has reported findings that almost all of the previously noted violations still exist.

The property owner has indicated that he has been trying to sell. However, we will not delay our pursuit of enforcement of the Consent Order for any reason. I am firmly committed to doing everything within my power to transition this embarrassment for the surrounding communities into the gateway that Lemont deserves.

(continued on page 2)

From the Mayor's Desk (continued from p. 1)

The Bottom Line

As most of you are aware, the state and federal governments are in dire financial condition. Consequently, revenues from these sources at the local level will continue to decrease in the upcoming years. Complicating the matter is the reality that the Village will have to undertake several capital improvement projects during the next five years in order to maintain the level of service that our residents deserve.

We continue to separate many miles of the combined sewer system on an annual basis, as required by law. Additionally, we have plans to move our Public Works facility to a more suitable location. There are plans to build a new Police facility which is long overdue for expansion. Several projects are in the 2004 budget to help alleviate recurring flooding problems.

As part of our planning process for these projects, we will be discussing various ways to increase revenue sources within the Village. This administration will have to make some very difficult decisions in order to accomplish our goals.

In all likelihood, residents can expect a water and sewer rate increase. The water rate has not been increased in over 6 years and the sewer rate has not been touched since its inception in 1992. We are very mindful of the effect this will have on our senior citizens, many of whom are on a fixed income. Therefore, we will attempt to protect the senior population by keeping the water rate stable at the minimum usage level. The increase will be targeted at the higher usage levels which we believe is an equitable approach.

We will also be discussing the possibility of asking the residents to decide whether or not the Village should be given the authority to implement additional revenue generating powers. The thought process is that a substantial portion of the tax burden can be shifted to non-residents with something as simple as a modest sales tax increase.

We are in the midst of our budget process as this newsletter goes to press. We are committed to being very judicious in our expenditures and we will deliver a balanced budget. As always, we will continue to seek your input and will execute the mandate that we are given.

John F. Piazza, Mayor



To Contact Your Elected Officials

All Village Board members can be contacted either by phone or e-mail at the Village Hall.

To leave a voice mail message, call either 257-1550 or 257-1590 and ask to be transferred to the official's voice mailbox.

The Mayor and all trustees can also be reached via e-mail:

jpiazza@lemont.il.us
 dblatzer@lemont.il.us
 pcoules@lemont.il.us
 breaves@lemont.il.us
 srosendahl@lemont.il.us
 rstapleton@lemont.il.us
 jvirgilio@lemont.il.us

The general Village Hall e-mail address is vlemont@lemont.il.us.

Mayor's Drive for Charity - Monday, April 26



This is the sixth consecutive year that Ruffled Feathers has generously donated the use of their outstanding facility for this event.

The 2004 Mayor's Drive for Charity, jointly sponsored by Mayor John Piazza and Ruffled Feathers Golf Club, will tee off on Monday, April 26. Two shotgun starts are planned for 7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Fees: **\$125 Per Player Includes**
18 Holes & Cart
Continental Breakfast or Box Lunch
Buffet Dinner
Prizes

Tee Times: **Shotgun Start**
7:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - Scramble format

Hole sponsorships (\$150), 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 go to charity. The funds will be made available to all bona fide Lemont service organizations, non-profit organizations and recognized community groups. The funds will be distributed to several charities, and all of the funds will be used to benefit the community. **Registration Forms are available at the Village Hall or by calling 257-1590.**

Village Wins APWA Awards for Heritage Quarries Park

Lemont's Heritage Quarries Park and trail extension has recently received two accolades from the American Public Works Association Southwest Branch and Chicago Metro chapters. Named as Project of the Year in the category of historic preservation for projects under \$2 million, the Park is now eligible for a national award.

Four pedestrian bridges and a 3.8 mile trail extension will provide access to the public for hiking, biking and fishing opportunities in a pristine natural area previously inaccessible for recreational opportunities.

Volunteer labor and the Public Works Department cleared discarded debris from the area to complete the path extension. The Public Works Department then constructed a 10-foot wide path, surfaced with asphalt grindings and looped around several quarry lakes.

Remaining improvements to the Park include construction of a parking lot and a shelter as soon as weather permits. The Park's official opening is scheduled for June.

Park improvements were made possible through a Legislative Initiative/Illinois First grant through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Contributions from private industry also funded some of the park amenities.



Village Prepares for Well #6 Construction

A water system study conducted a year ago by Strand & Associates revealed that in order to meet current and future water consumption needs through the year 2010 it would be necessary to build a new well by 2005 (Well #6), and possibly a second additional well prior to 2015 (Well #7). The estimated cost of construction for Well #6 is \$2.6 million.

Property for Well # 6 was acquired through a 1996 annexation agreement and will be located adjacent to Steeples development with access off McCarthy Road. The new deep well will be drilled to a depth of approximately 1,650 feet with a capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute. Pumping facilities and an ion exchange plant will be enclosed in a masonry building on the site. On January 26, the Village Board accepted the low bid for well drilling services from Layne Western to begin Phase I of a year-long project. It is anticipated that the well project will be complete by spring, 2005.

A municipal bond issue will finance the initial improvements. A water & sewer rate increase will most likely be necessary to cover the debt service on the bonds. Water rates have not changed since 1998; sewer rates have remained constant for the last 12 years. The average residential bill is now \$49.45 per 2-month billing cycle, roughly 83 cents per day. The Village Board will weigh every option to provide the least impact to the consumers.

The Illinois EPA has determined that the Village's well supply meets or exceeds all of the state and federal water requirements in regard to water quality. Additionally the water levels in all of the Village's deep wells has been on the rise in recent years. The IEPA has also determined that the water supply has a low susceptibility to contamination based on a recent Source Water Assessment.

Volunteers Needed I & M Canal Clean-Up April 24th: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Earth week clean-up efforts this year will focus on the waterways in the new Heritage Quarries Park. Volunteers are needed to assist with removal of debris along the Canal and from the quarries. Volunteers will meet at K.A. Steel at 8:00 a.m. on April 24. Contact Tom Thomas, Chairman, at 257-1902 or call the Village Hall at 257-1550 to volunteer.

SAFE



AT HOME

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TORNADOES



The **Lemont Environmental Advisory Commission**, in partnership with Lemont Police and Fire Departments, has made a brochure available on tornado safety. The text is reproduced below. Free copies of the brochure are available at the Village Hall, 418 Main Street, or on the Village web site at www.lemont.il.us.

How Will You Know That a Tornado Could be Headed Your Way?

The tornado siren will sound to warn resident 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.

Prepare a Home Tornado Plan

Pick a safe area where family members could gather if a tornado is headed your way. It could be your basement, a center hallway, bathroom, or closet on the lowest floor. Avoid areas with glass. Keep the chosen area uncluttered.

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.

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.

After a Tornado Passes . . .

- Watch out for fallen power lines and stay out of damaged areas.
- Listen to the radio for information and instructions.
- Use a flashlight to inspect your home for damage.
- Avoid the use of candles, due to the possibility of gas leaks.

Odor Alert Network Formed

Although odor complaints are received only sporadically by the Village and the source of the odor may be miles away, Village officials have implemented a procedure to deal with odor complaints effectively. The Lemont Odor Alert Network, a partnership of Village government, the Illinois E.P.A., local industries, businesses and residents, has been meeting over the course of several months to refine a procedure to help identify and resolve odor problems.

A recurring problem in resolving odor complaints in the past has been the inability to quickly investigate the complaint and get accurate information on wind direction. Through the Odor Alert Network, an investigation of the complaint can begin immediately. When odors are reported by residents to the Village Hall, Police or Fire Departments, the OAN coordinator will attempt to verify the odor through a sentry network (a group of residents strategically located throughout Lemont). The coordinator will then investigate and attempt to resolve the complaint with the suspected source of the odor.

This process does not replace or interfere with the regulatory requirements already in place by the Illinois E.P.A. If a release of a substance occurs that is required by law to be reported to emergency officials, the organization responsible for the release must still report the release.

Two new WeatherNet weather monitoring stations, financed by a \$10,000 donation from Unocal/Chicago Carbon Company, have been located at Old Quarry Middle School and Lemont High School. The stations can provide accurate and immediate information on wind direction.



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 20 **Arbor Day:** Tree planting at River Valley School.

April 24 **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 and Citgo Petroleum.

April 24

- **I & M Canal Clean-Up:** 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Meet at K.A. Steel - turn north from Main Street near the Illinois Street intersection. Parking available). This year the clean-up will focus on the new pathways in Heritage Quarries Park.
- **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).
- **Refreshments and Exhibits:** 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Safety Village.

Planning meetings are scheduled for **March 8, March 22 and April 12, 6:00 p.m. 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.

March is Severe Weather Preparedness Month

Emergency Operations Plan Revised

Tom Ballard, Lemont Emergency Management Agency Coordinator, has completed revisions to the Village and Township Emergency Operations Plan to comply with homeland security and Illinois EMA requirements for certification of the plan. A sound emergency operations plan is critical in any disaster effort.

The Plan is essentially a manual to be used by officials and agencies normally involved in mitigation of the disaster. The Lemont Emergency Operations Plan will be used as a model for Cook County and other emergency management agencies.

If you are interested in becoming a LEMA volunteer, please contact Tom Ballard, LEMA Coordinator, at 630-257-6689. LEMA volunteers receive training in spotting and reporting techniques for severe weather conditions.

Landscape Waste 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.

Paper landscape waste bags may be purchased at the Village Hall at \$.30 each or at local grocery and hardware stores.



Branch Pick-up Program Begins April 1

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)

BRANCHES IN CANS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED.

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



FREE Landscape Waste Spring Clean-up

April 21, 22, & 23

NO STICKER REQUIRED

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 21, 22 or 23.** This is your opportunity to get rid of all the leaves and debris which may have accumulated over the winter.

NO STICKERS REQUIRED THIS WEEK ONLY

Yard waste must be bagged in paper landscape waste bags to be picked up.

From the Village Clerk . . .

Polling Places March 16 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	Centennial Recreation Center	16028 127th Street
010	Witkoski Recreation Center	1115 Warner Avenue
011	Centennial Recreation Center	16028 127th Street
012	Slovenian Cultural Center	14252 Main Street
013	Centennial Recreation Center	16028 127th Street
014	Lithuanian World Center	14911 127th Street
015	Centennial Recreation Center	16028 127th Street



Please consult your voter registration card for your precinct number. Voters may now check their voting eligibility via e-mail at voterreg@cookcountygov.com or by calling (312) 603-0906. **Applications for absentee ballots are available at the Village Hall and at Lemont Township. Applications must be returned to the County Clerk's Office no later than March 11. Voters may cast in-person absentee ballots at the Bridgeview Mini Center, 10220 S. 76th Avenue in Bridgeview. Call (708) 974-6150 for voting hours.**



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!

PARADE & IRISH FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 - 1:00 PM

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN LEMONT

FEATURING CHICAGO STOCKYARD KILTY BAND &
LEMONT'S OWN IRISH QUEEN, CAITLYN QUINN.

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 The Larkin Brothers
- 3:00 Soda Bread Contest

Fun!

Music

March 6: 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Lemont High School's 15th Annual Jazz Band Benefit Dinner Dance

Location: Willowbrook Ballroom, 8900 Archer Avenue, Willow Springs. Call the Lemont High School Band Phone Line for Ticket Info: 630-257-6211.

March 7: 1:00 p.m.

Theater for Children Featuring THE WORLD OF POOH Performed by American Eagle Productions.

Location: Lemont Park District Gym. \$5.00 per person. PRE-SALE TICKETS ONLY! Children 2 & Under Free!

Rebate: Bring in three dry goods for the Lemont Food Pantry and receive \$1.00 back at the door (limit one discount per family). For more info call the Park District office at 630-257-6787.

March 12: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

MOMSON NIGHT Featuring Samantha's Amazing Animals

Location: Centennial Community Center. For more information call 630-257-6787.

March 16: 10:00 a.m. - Noon

LONG TERM CARE: You Are Never Too Young or Too Old!

Location: Centennial Community Center FREE. For more information call the Park District office at 630-257-6787.

March 16: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Lemont District 113A PTA presents Family Fun Night!

Location: River Valley School, 15425 W. 127th Street. A live LASER and hologram show that will peak the curiosity of everyone. All families are welcome to attend. For further information contact 630-257-2286, Ext. 2.

March 25: 11:30 a.m.

State of the Village Luncheon

Location: Ruffled Feathers Country Club *Advance Registration Required.* For registration info contact the Chamber of Commerce at 630-257-5997. Cost: \$25.00 Members; \$35.00 Non-Members.

March 28: Noon - 5:00 p.m.

Lion's Club Chicken Dinner

Location: Lesnieski Center
Tickets: \$6 Seniors, \$7 Adults, \$5 Grade School Children, Preschool Children Free. For further information call Tom Drez at 630-257-0661 or Ross Lillwitz at 630-257-7236.

April 3: 11:00 a.m. - 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! Fee includes lunch, craft, picture with the Easter Bunny or having your face painted. For more info. contact 630-257-6787.



Spring Events



April 4: 1:00 p.m.

Lemont Jaycees Easter Egg Hunt

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



April 18: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

"A Spring Alive Benefit & Silent Auction"

Location: Ruffled Feathers. *Advance Registration Required by April 1, 2004.* For further information call the Franciscan Village Development Office at 630-243-3500, x 3435.

April 21

Professional Staff Luncheon

Sponsored by Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information contact the Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

April 24: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Motor Oil Recycling Day

Metra Commuter Lot at Main Street & Ed Bossert Drive (enter via River Street). Sponsored by LEAC and Citgo Petroleum. For more info. contact Tom Thomas at 630-257-1902 or the Village Hall at 630-257-1550.

April 24: 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Lemont Celebrates Earth Day

Historic Downtown Lemont Canal Clean-up, Historic Walk, Refreshments at Safety Village. For info.: 257-1550 or 257-1902.



April 26: 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



May 13: 9:00 a.m. Shot Gun Start

Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Outing

Location: Gleanegles Country Club
For more information contact the Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

For the most up-to-date event listings, visit our web site at www.lemont.il.us.

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
website address: www.lemont.il.us

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