



Village News

Volume XIII No.4
December 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 . . .

Hometown Holiday
Saturday, December 4
1:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Downtown Lemont

Tree Lighting
5:00 p.m.
Budnik Plaza

Midnight Madness
Shop-a-Thon
Friday, December 17
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
- Brian Reaves
- Steven Rosendahl
- Ronald Stapleton
- Jeanette Virgilio

From the Mayor's Desk



It's almost impossible to comprehend that the current administration is finishing its 4th year in office. However, when I look back on what we have been able to achieve in this relatively short period, I am gratified. I have a great sense of pride in what the Village Board and the staff have been able to contribute to this community and the direction that we have set for the future.

In the early stages of our term, we successfully fought several heavy polluting, unwanted industrial developments. The message was clear; Lemont would no longer be the last outpost for unwanted heavy polluting industries in Cook County. We successfully derailed attempts from Acme Barrel and Container Care Corporation to relocate their businesses in Lemont. Both companies were being evicted from their places of business in Chicago and Cicero, respectively.

This administration pledged to clean up the area along the Sanitary & Ship Canal and down-zone at every opportunity. We were successful in annexing and rezoning over 250 acres of land owned by the MWRD. We rezoned this property from the most intensive industrial use in Cook County to a very benign recreational and commercial use in Lemont. Additionally, we are aggressively pursuing the non-permitted uses that have gone unregulated for decades in this corridor.

With considerable help, I was able to initiate a multi-jurisdictional task force to eradicate the junkyards on Route 83 and Archer Avenue. Attorney General Lisa Madigan, Senator Radogno, Commissioner Gorman, and Representative Lyons have all joined forces to champion

Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2

From the Mayor's Desk

this cause. We will remain committed and unwavering in our efforts to restore this area to an acceptable environmental state.

Residential growth in Lemont has been extremely well-managed. The average size of lots has increased significantly and the quality of the new homes in Lemont is unparalleled in the area. The average density on new single-family housing developments has been less than 2 units per acre under this administration. The quality of new developments as promised, has only increased the value of the existing subdivisions.

The continued redevelopment of our historic downtown will be viewed as one of the greatest single accomplishments of our Board. The redevelopment agreement that we just recently executed with Marquette Developers will be the catalyst for transforming the downtown into a vibrant and exciting venue for all of Lemont and the surrounding communities.

Additionally, our ability to secure the 86 acres of land from the MWRD and transform it into the Heritage Quarries recreational area will benefit many generations to come. The walking/biking trails, pedestrian bridges, and the pavilion have received rave reviews from the entire community.

Other significant accomplishments that are either completed or scheduled are: the Stephen Street reconstruction, establishment of the Historic District, the I-355 extension, the widening of 127th Street, the 10 year road program, and continued flood/storm water mitigation projects.

With respect to economic development, I believe that we have established a sound base and a considerable amount of legitimate development interest from retailers and commercial developers alike. The most significant opportunities will be along 127th Street and in our downtown. Other areas that have enormous potential but will be the most difficult to develop are the properties along the Sanitary & Ship Canal and at Route 83 and Archer Avenue.

The feedback that I have received from the vast majority of the residents is that they agree with our vision for the future of Lemont. As always, we welcome the comments and suggestions from all of those that we serve. My pledge to the residents of Lemont is that we will "stay the course" unless mandated otherwise.

Sincerely,

John Piazza, Mayor

Consultant on Board to Study New Downtown TIF Area

The Village has entered into an agreement with Ehlers and Associates to conduct an initial review of the proposed downtown redevelopment project area to determine whether the project is eligible for a Tax Increment Finance District under Illinois Tax Increment laws.

Creation of a new TIF District would reimburse the developer, Marquette Properties, Inc., over a period of years for public improvements in connection with the downtown redevelopment project. Private investment would pay for the initial and immediate cost of public improvements to begin the project.

Art & Culture Commission Named

A new 5-member Village Commission has been created with the mission of cultivating and promoting the appreciation of our heritage through public arts projects. A group of local artists formed a grass roots alliance, Public Art Advocates of Lemont (PAAL), to lay the foundation for the Commission.

The Art & Culture Commission has already completed its first public art project. The group has transformed two ordinary concrete planters by applying mosaic tiles in combination with the Village seal.

Interested residents attended a workshop in November sponsored by the Commission and did the actual preparation of the mosaic tile. Local artist Robert Moriarty prepared and applied the tiles to the planters which will be installed in front of the Village Hall.

The Commission will work with local historians and other community organizations to determine themes and locations for future public art projects. The Commission's first fund raising endeavor, "Chairs for Art" featuring chairs decorated by local artists, will be on display at various community events and functions over the winter months.

The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Artful Gatherings, 106 Stephen Street. All meetings are open to the public. For more information, please contact Alice Chin, Commission Chair, at (630) 257-8888.



Police Department Awarded Traffic Safety Grant

Thanks to a grant funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation, administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety, the Police Department will sharply intensify enforcement of child passenger safety and seat belt laws, impaired driving laws and speed laws in an effort to save lives.

Enforcement activities will include seat belt and child safety checkpoints, saturation patrols, zero-tolerance mandates, roadside safety checkpoints, and other stepped up enforcement efforts. The grant period will extend through September 30, 2005.

**Officer
Joseph Buczyrna**



At the November 8 Village Board meeting, Officer Joseph Buczyrna was presented with an achievement award by representatives of the Illinois Department of Transportation for his accomplishments in the area of traffic safety. Officer Buczyrna was singled out for his outstanding efforts in DUI enforcement, having apprehended 25 DUI offenders since January, 2001.

Call 257-2229
to Register for
the Senior Bracelet
I.D. Program

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 ATM's 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

Police Testing in January

Applications for the position of Police Officer will be available beginning December 15 for employment and to establish an eligibility list for the Lemont Police Department. Applicant must be a U.S. citizen, age 21 to 34. At least thirty hours of college credit preferred, but not required. Applications (\$10.00) may be picked up at the Village Hall, 418 Main Street, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Completed application forms must be returned in person at a mandatory orientation on January 22, 2005. Physical agility testing will be held on January 29. For more information, please contact the Lemont Police Department (630) 257-2229.

Senior Bracelet I.D. Program to Begin in 2005

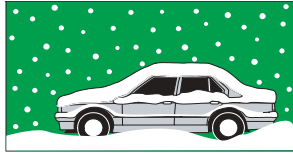
The Lemont Police Department will initiate a Senior Bracelet I.D. Program in January to help keep seniors safe. The program will help identify seniors, and also any medical or special needs and next of kin in the event of an emergency.

Seniors are urged to obtain a registration form from the Police Department. Information from the registration will be entered into a data base and a numbered I.D. bracelet will be issued to the senior which corresponds to the information provided. The information can be accessed immediately in an emergency.

Under this new initiative, Police and Fire personnel will have the ability to assist seniors effectively when seconds count. To receive a registration form or for more information on the program, contact the Police Department at 630-257-2229.

WINTER INFO

Winter Parking Reminder



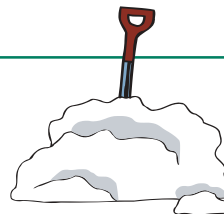
**After a snowfall of 2 inches
PARK ON THE
odd-numbered side of the street
on odd calendar days,
even-numbered side of the street on
even calendar days.**

*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 wherever 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.



Public Works personnel readies salting and snow removal equipment for the winter season.

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.

Alley Paving Program Wraps Up for the Year



Paving alleys pays for itself by reducing the annual maintenance involved in re-grading and providing gravel.

In late August, the Public Works Department received delivery of paving equipment which has allowed the department to escalate the Village's on-going alley paving program. Previously, the department could grade and pave possibly one or two alleys in a construction season.

Since August, 5 gravel alleys have received asphalt surfaces, totaling approximately 1 mile. The alley paralleling New Avenue from the Fire Station to Timberline Drive, along with some alleys in older residential areas to the east and west of State Street have been surfaced.

Public Works Director Dan Fielding expects that the Department will be able to pave all remaining alleys by the fall of 2005. The Public Works Department annually maintains approximately 5 lane miles of alleys in the Village.

Site Selected for Public Works Facility

In early 2005, construction of a new 40,000 square foot public works facility will begin on a 5-acre site located along New Avenue. The facility is expected to cost approximately \$3 million.

Bonds have been issued to fund the construction of the new facility and also to finance Well #6, several necessary flood remediation improvements, and homeland security updates to the water system.

Public Works Projects

Sidewalk Installed to Target-Kohl's Center

In order to improve community safety, the Public Works Department recently completed installation of drainage improvements consisting of storm sewers and grading, and constructed a concrete 6 foot wide public sidewalk along south State Street between Harper's Grove (just south of the Jewel Plaza) to the Target-Kohl's Center at State Street & Archer Avenue.

The Village Board considers this area a safety priority due to the number of youngsters traveling to and from the commercial center on bicycles. The sidewalk will provide a much needed corridor to keep bicycles and pedestrians out of heavy traffic.

Dan Fielding, Director of Public Works, estimates that the Village has saved taxpayers an estimated \$100,000 by having the Public Works Department do the job instead of hiring an outside contractor to do the work.



South Elevation
Well House

Well # 6 Drilling Completed

The preliminary stages of Well # 6 have now been completed, including drilling of the well and installation of a submersible 250 hp pump. The well has achieved the desired pumping capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute which will substantially increase Village water supply. Construction of an above-ground well house and softening plant will complete the \$2.6 million facility located off McCarthy Road.

The Village Board recently approved the design of the well house, intended to complement the surrounding residential development. The addition of this well will help to meet Village water needs for several years.



New storm sewers and sidewalks on south State Street will greatly improve public safety.

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.

2004 Construction Season Wraps Up

Logan/Singer/Warner

Residents who live and travel in the Logan/Singer/Warner neighborhood will find significantly improved conditions with the completion of the reconstruction project including new water main and services, separated storm sewers, curb & gutter and completely new pavement. This reconstruction project was part of the Village's 10 year plan to improve Village infrastructure and roadways. Landscaping work and paving was completed at the end of November.

Planning for 2005 Construction Season

McCarthy Road and Illinois Street

The Village has been notified by IDOT that the resurfacing of McCarthy Road, from Bell Road to Stephen Street, and resurfacing of Illinois Street from Main Street to State Street is scheduled for a January bid letting with construction to begin in May and June of 2005.

127th Street

Cook County Highway Department will let bids in February 2005 for the complete reconstruction of 127th Street from State Street to Archer Avenue. Improvements will consist of complete removal of the existing 2-lane pavement and construction of a new 3-lane pavement that incorporates a center left turn lane in each direction. Drainage will be accomplished by new storm sewers and curb and gutter. New sidewalks will be constructed on both sides of the street where easements have been obtained. Two-way traffic will be maintained during construction, and the project is expected to be completed by November of 2005.

Shop Lemont for the Holidays Begins November 26th!

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 26th, 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 17 6:00 p.m. - Midnight

Downtown merchants will stay open until midnight on Friday, December 17th for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Horsedrawn wagon rides will run from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. This will also be the last chance to enter the "Shop Lemont" raffle. Escape the malls and head for Downtown Lemont to finish up your Christmas shopping.

HOMETOWN HOLIDAY EVENT SERIES

Saturday, December 4th: 1:00 - 7:30 p.m.

- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tree Decorating Throughout Town
Organizations, Call to Adopt-A-Tree: 630-243-2700.
- 3:00 p.m. Ice Sculpting Demonstration at Budnik Plaza
- 4:30 - 5:00 p.m. Caroling - Girl Scouts
- 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. Horsedrawn Wagon Rides
Starts at Budnik Plaza by the Mural.
- 5:00 p.m. Tree Lighting - Budnik Plaza
- 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Pictures With Santa at Budnik Plaza
- 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Santa's Elves (Facepainting & Balloons)
- 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. Santa's Reindeer (Petting Zoo)

Friday, December 17th: 6:00 p.m. til Midnight

- 6:00 p.m. - Midnight Midnight Madness
Participating merchants stay open until midnight for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Last chance to get entered into the "Shop Lemont" contest!
- 8:00 p.m. - Midnight Horsedrawn Wagon Rides

December 4th: 1:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Hometown Holiday

Historic Downtown Lemont

A Fun-Filled Day for the Entire Family. For The Day's Schedule of Events, See Page 6.



"Toys for Santa"

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's 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.

Gift Certificates Available at the Lemont 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 your Certificates. To order or for more information call 630-257-5997.

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

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

December 5th: 9:00 a.m. to Noon
Breakfast With Santa. Requires Pre-Registration.

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

December 5th: 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. For further information call 630-257-2972. Free admission.

December 5th: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Alvernia Manor Retirement Community Presents Little Christmas

Featuring Franz Benteler & the Royal Strings. Location: Mount Assisi Academy Gym, 13860 Main Street, Lemont. RSVP before November 19th (Limited Seating). Tickets: \$12.00. Refreshments & Prizes. For more information call 630-257-7721.

December 5th: 6:00 p.m.
Celebrate an Irish Christmas!
Ric Blair Band in Concert

Location: First Church of the Nazarene. Tickets available at the church office. For more information call 708-349-0454. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Irish Children's Fund.

December 8th: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Santa's Calling. Pre-Registration Required.

Children of Lemont are on Santa's special phone call list this holiday season. For further info: 630-257-6787 to register your child. Lemont Park District residents only please!



December 11th
Lemont Junior Woman's Club Hosts its 11th Annual Benefit Breakfast With Santa

Location: Cog Hill Country Club. Two seatings. Included is a picture with Santa, carriage ride, magician and balloon artist. For tickets or further information call 630-257-2740.

December 11th: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Lemont Dist. 113A PTA Hosts Its Annual Santa's Secret Shop

Location: River Valley School. Volunteers needed. For information or to volunteer contact Laura Swalec, Publicity Chairman, District 113A PTA at 630-257-2286.

December 11th: 6:00 p.m. and
December 12th: 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
"Angel Alert" Christmas Musical

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. A dramatic musical presented by our children's choir & actors. For more information call 708-349-0454.

December 12th: 4:00 p.m.
Lemont High School Band/Choir Concert

Lemont High School Gymnasium, 800 Porter Street. Cost: FREE. Attendees are asked to donate a canned food product or paper products for the Lemont Food Pantry.

Friday, December 17th:
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. This will also be the last chance to get entered into the "Shop Lemont" contest! Escape the malls and head for Downtown Lemont to finish up your Christmas shopping.



December 19: 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Christmas Choir Celebration

Location: First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Free admission. For further information call 708-349-0454.

January 2nd: 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Sunday Holiday House Walk 2005
 Sponsored by the Franciscan Village Resident Council. For further information contact Joan Swigon at 630-243-3435.

January 21 - 22:
Marriage Tune-Up Conference
 First Church of the Nazarene. Children's activities will also be provided. For more information call Tracy Bell at 708-301-2528.

January 22nd:
Chamber of Commerce Dinner Dance
 Cog Hill Country Club. For more info call the Lemont Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

February 4th
Girls Night Out - Celebrating Women.
 An evening of shopping and socializing sponsored by the Lemont Junior Woman's Club & The Downtown Merchants Association. Historic Downtown Lemont. For information call 630-243-8222.

February 11th & 12th: 7:00 p.m.
Lemont High School Winter Play
Neil Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs"
 Tickets at the door: \$5 adults, \$2 senior citizens, children & students with I.D. For further information call 630-243-3280.

February 26th: 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Midwest Music Band Festival
 Location: Lemont High School (Auditorium Entrance). Tickets at door: \$7 adults, \$4 senior citizens, children and students with I.D. For more info call 630-243-3280.

February 26th
Candlelight Bowl Party and Fundraiser
 Sponsored by Lemont Junior Woman's Club. For further info call 630-243-0529.

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 24 through Monday, December 27. Offices will also be closed on Friday, December 31.



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