



Village News

Volume XII, No. 4
September 1, 2003

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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Stephen Street Construction remains close to schedule. The major underground elements of the project are complete. See update on page 3.

From the Mayor's Desk —



On September 4, 2003, the Village tallied its most significant accomplishment to date in our efforts to change the face of the Sanitary & Ship Canal Corridor and the northern gateway to Lemont for the next half-century. The feat that I am speaking of is the annexation and down-zoning of approximately 200 acres of land owned by the MWRD in very close proximity to our central downtown.

The agreement we have reached with the MWRD will allow the Village of Lemont to annex the property and rezone it to a much less intensive use. The property is currently under the zoning authority of the Cook County Board and falls within their most intensive zoning district. By rezoning this property, we will be able to effectively eliminate many of the high-polluting, unwanted industries that we have fought against in the past.

We have agreed with the MWRD and some of the current tenants that marine-oriented operations are compatible with our long term vision for this area. More specifically, we believe that barging operations and other commercial, recreational, or residential developments could peacefully coexist on this property.

The MWRD Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to grant Lemont the power to determine its own destiny with respect to the types of development that will be allowed on the property in question. It is also important to note that the MWRD is committed to assist Lemont and Cook County in ensuring that all the tenants on the District's property are in compliance with applicable zoning ordinances. Many of the tenants on the east side of Lemont Road are in violation of the building code requirements of the Village and the county.

I would personally like to thank President Terry O'Brien and General Superintendent Jack Farnan and the entire MWRD Board of Commissioners for their consideration and cooperation. This is by far our single greatest achievement in the effort to make our vision for the canal corridor a reality.

Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2

Trick or Treat Hours
3:00 - 6:30 p.m.
October 31

Don't miss...
Halloween Hoedown
 Historic Downtown Lemont
Saturday, October 25
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Visit us on the web
at www.lemont.il.us**

From the Mayor's Desk

Plan in Place for Flood Damage Repairs

After a complete assessment of the damage from the July 27 flood, the Village Board has authorized staff to pursue repairs to several pieces of infrastructure. We have contacted the state and FEMA to apply for financial assistance. Even though this funding has not been secured, the Board believes that these repairs, estimated at approximately \$300,000, are essential to public safety and must move forward.

The Public Works Department continues to make repairs and tackle many of the projects. However, there are other projects that will require surveys and outside bids for completion. Surveys of some serious problem areas will begin for: Ridge & Eureka, 1000 block of Crestview, Kromray & Saddle, Coach Lane, and Hermes Avenue from Peiffer to Jayne.

Several other areas have also been identified as priorities for repairs:

- 527 Czacki Street.
Roadway, storm sewer & sidewalk repairs estimated at \$20,000.
- Hillview Drainage Ditch between Freehauf & Schultz Street.
Stabilization of retaining walls and slopes; channel improvements estimated at \$85,000.
- Drainage Ditch between Schultz & Czacki Streets.
Re-establishing damaged channel, stabilizing the roadway embankment, estimated at \$65,000.
- Drainage Channel between Bowl area & Cass Street.
Debris removal and channel repairs estimated at \$25,000.
- Abbey Oaks Detention Pond.
Outlet and reseeding, estimated at \$25,000.
- Ridge & Eureka.
Installation of new drainage inlet with additional capacity, estimated at \$15,000.
- Illinois Street Drainage Tunnel.
Survey for breach and tunnel system repairs, estimated at \$50,000.

If state and federal funding for these repairs does not materialize, other projects approved in the budget may have to be put on hold, but the Board's priority is to address these flood repairs as soon as possible.

John F. Piazza, Mayor

Volunteers Needed

Illinois River Sweep Saturday, September 20 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

The Friends of the Illinois River have designated Saturday, September 20 as a volunteer clean-up day for the Illinois River and its watershed.

Lemont River Sweep Captain, Sue Murphy, assisted by Nancy McKenna, will focus local efforts on the quarries east of K.A. Steel.

Last year over 150 volunteers filled 125 bags of garbage, uncovered an oven, two air conditioners, a roaster, three microwaves and sixteen tires. Volunteers should register at the tent on K.A. Steel Road at the I & M Canal Path.

Volunteers are asked to wear long pants and long sleeves and bring a pair of gloves. Scout groups and service organizations are encouraged to participate.

Parking is available in the public lots at Stephen Street & the I & M Canal.

For more information, contact Sue Murphy at (630) 257-2821 or Nancy McKenna at (630) 243-6217.

Flood Damage Appeal Scheduled

A special seminar with the Cook County assessor's office will walk homeowners through the process of appealing their tax assessments because of flood damage. **Specialists from the assessor's office will be at Village Hall, 418 Main Street from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on September 27th.**

A successful appeal cannot be based on damage to personal property such as carpeting or furniture. But damage to the structure itself, or to furnaces and central air conditioning, is grounds for an appeal.

Residents should bring written descriptions of the damages as well as any other evidence such as photos, repair estimates or bills.



Park Opening Delayed

The first of 3 pedestrian bridges, designed to loop the I & M Canal pedestrian and bicycle path and provide access to the Heritage Quarries Park, has been installed. The remaining 2 bridges will be delivered and installed by September 19. Custom construction of the bridges and temporary relocation of utilities to allow for installation have slowed the completion of this essential component of the Heritage Quarries Park development. Village officials had previously hoped to have a ribbon-cutting this fall for the opening of the Park, but have opted to wait until spring so that the bridges and parking improvements will be essentially complete.



Lemont
businesses
are **open** during
construction

Pardon our Progress

— Stephen Street Reconstruction Continues



The streetscape on Stephen Street begins to take shape with the installation of planter boxes and sidewalk pavers between Main & Illinois Streets.

The Stephen Street reconstruction continues to move along just about on schedule. By September 15, the most complicated portions of the project leg between the I & M Canal and the tracks should be wrapping up. At that time, the street will receive a preliminary surface and will once again be open to traffic.

The next step will be intersection improvements at Stephen & Canal Streets. The contractor will complete this final small section without closing the intersection. Businesses on Canal Street will be accessible via Canal or Lemont Streets.

All downtown businesses remain open and will appreciate your business. Parking and access are available by following the construction signs.

Regular construction meetings are held each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in the Village Hall Council Room. Questions regarding the construction may be directed to the Village's construction manager, Anthony Sarley, Frank Novotny & Associates at (630) 257-6719.

Engineering Approved for New Village Well

In an effort to provide for the future water needs of the community, the Village Board has approved an engineering agreement with Strand Associates for the design of a new deep well facility to be located on previously acquired property near Steeples subdivision. Strand will provide a design and specifications for a 1,650' deep well, pumping facilities, and an ion exchange plant to treat the water. The above-ground pumping facility will be housed in a masonry building designed to reflect the architectural appearance of the nearby townhomes. Consistent with the design of Well #5, water storage will be underground.

Actual construction of the well is proposed for fiscal year 2005 at an estimated cost of \$2,365,000.

2003 Road Resurfacing Program Winding Down

Since mid-August many streets throughout the community have been resurfaced during the annual Road Resurfacing Program. Nearly 3 miles of streets at 11 locations have received minor patching, minor curb repairs and a full resurfacing. The entire length of **Blacksmith Lane, Coach Lane, Woodcrest Court, Wildoak Drive, Woodcrest Lane, Roberta Street, Erin Court** and **Meagan Lane** have been resurfaced. Resurfacing of a portion of **119th Street, Wend Street** and **Walter Street** has also been completed at a cost of approximately \$360,000. The Village has adopted a 10-year plan which is updated annually to determine, with available funding, how many streets can be resurfaced in a given year. Resurfacing extends the life of roadways in the 10-year age range to avoid premature and more costly reconstruction.

Country Lane/Country Court

The reconstruction of Country Lane and Country Court is already underway. This project involves complete pavement removal, installation of new water main and services, storm sewer improvements, installation of curb and gutter, and completely new road base and pavement. Wrapped into this project is the resurfacing of Kromray Road between Country Lane and 127th Street. Total cost of this reconstruction project is approximately \$425,000. Weather permitting, the entire project should be complete by mid-October.

What's New

Village Approves Space Needs Analysis

Over the past several months, there has been much discussion of future space needs to enable the Village to provide the optimum level of services to an expanded population. The Police Department has outgrown its current facility and the Public Works Department is also finding a need for more space at its 127th Street facility. The 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan identifies these priorities and allocates funds in FY 2006 for a new Police facility and an addition to the Public Works building.

The Village Board has entered into an agreement with Wight & Company, an engineering/architectural firm, to provide a space needs analysis. The analysis will balance future population projections against the current strength and allotted space of each department. The study will then produce findings and recommendations to guide the Village in deciding on the size and character of any new property acquisition and construction, and will suggest an amount to budget for these projects based on the most appropriate combination of size, quality and cost.

The study should assist the Board in setting a reasonable timetable to achieve its goals of providing additional departmental space and exploring various methods to fund acquisition of property and construction.

Lemont Station Area Study Continues



The downtown Lemont Transit Oriented Development Study being conducted by URS Corporation is entering its third phase. In the first two steps, the consultant gathered data and then conducted a visual preference workshop in July and extended the survey through the month of August to allow for public involvement.

The remaining steps will include a commercial market analysis of the area to determine the best commercial uses and development of the study area; an analysis of the housing market with an emphasis on appropriate locations for downtown residential development; preparation of a concept land use plan; development of a traffic and pedestrian circulation plan; and finally, the consultant will present implementation strategies and a final report. It is anticipated that the entire study will be completed by December, 2004.

The study is being partially funded by a grant from the Regional Transit Authority.

For more information, please contact David Orrico, Village Planner, at 630-257-1595 or dorrico@lemont.il.us.

Plan Commission Seeks Citizen Input on Design Guidelines



The Plan Commission is seeking resident involvement in developing draft infill design guidelines for residential infill construction in the older, established residential district in the heart of the village. The delineated area roughly spans from Illinois to Freehauf Street, east from State Street to Julia and west from State Street to Walter Street. Also included is the area adjacent to St. Cyril & Methodius Church, known as "Blue Hill."

As nearby communities run out of lots, many are facing the dilemma of demolition of older homes to provide lots for new residential construction which may or may not be appropriate to the surrounding neighborhood. The infill design guidelines will address building height, mass, lot coverage, building materials, detached garages, landscaping and tree preservation. This will provide for well-planned and visually appealing neighborhoods that preserve the character of the community.

The Plan Commission meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. The next workshop on the Design Standards is Tuesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to find out how you might provide input for the infill design guidelines, please contact Village Planner, David Orrico, at 630-257-1595 or dorrico@lemont.il.us.

Fall Programs

FREE Leaf Pick-up Begins October 14 and Continues through November 27



Beginning Tuesday, October 14 and continuing each week through November 27, Waste Management will pick up bagged leaves as a free service to Village residents. **NO STICKER IS REQUIRED FOR LEAVES.**

Leaves **must be bagged in biodegradable paper bags** (*leaves in cans will not be accepted*) and placed at the curb before 6:00 a.m. on your **regular trash pick-up day**.

Biodegradable bags are available at the Village Hall at \$.30 each and may be purchased during regular business hours, Mon. - Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Bags may also be purchased at any grocery or hardware store.

Branch Pick-up Ends November 27

The **FREE** Branch Pick-up Program will wind up for the year on November 27. Residents are reminded to complete pruning projects before that date. **Branches are picked up on your regular trash pick-up day.**

Be sure to observe the requirements for branch pick-up:

- Branches must be bundled and tied with biodegradable string or twine. (*Branches in cans will not be accepted.*)
- Branches must be less than 4 feet in length, less than 4 inches in diameter and weigh less than 50 pounds.

NO STICKER IS REQUIRED FOR BRANCHES PROPERLY BUNDLED AND TIED.

Waste Management Fees Set Until 2007

Some confusion remains regarding a mailing to Village residents from Waste Management which referred to legislation requiring higher environmental fees for waste haulers and the necessity of passing this increase on to customers.

The Village has a contract with Waste Management which stipulates fees until April 30, 2007. Fees for Village residents will remain as stipulated in the contract.

**Waste Management
Customer Service
800-747-2278**

Motor Oil Recycling October 18 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Metra Lot

Lemont Environmental Advisory Commission will sponsor the fall Motor Oil Recycling Day on Saturday, October 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Metra Lot at Ed Bossert Drive and Main Street.

This is your opportunity to recycle:

- Motor oil
- Fuel oil
- Lubricant oil
- Brake/Transmission fluid
- Antifreeze

These fluids will be processed for additional uses. For more information, contact the Village Hall at (630) 257-1550.



Household Hazardous Waste

Fall is a good time to rid our homes of unnecessary household hazardous waste. Two regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days have been scheduled in our area:

• Saturday, September 20

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lincoln-Way Central High School
1801 E. Lincoln Highway (US Route 30)
New Lenox, IL

• Saturday, October 11

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sandburg High School
Rt. 45 & 131st Street
Palos Park, IL

Household chemicals including oil-based paint, cleaners, flammables and automobile fluids may also be dropped off at:

Naperville Fire Station No. 4.

Facility is located behind the station, corner of Rt. 59 & Brookdale Road in Naperville.

For info: (630) 420-6142.

Hours: Saturday and Sunday
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Village News & Info

Search Begins for New Police Chief

After 30 years with the Lemont Police Department, and 14 years as Chief, Jack Bluis intends to retire on January 2, 2004.

The Village Board has hired Resource Management Associates of Tinley Park to begin the recruitment and selection of a replacement to head the Department.

The Police Department received an official accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation in Law Enforcement earlier this year, after a 2-year effort by the department to revise procedures to comply with C.A.L.E.A. requirements.

The successful candidate for Chief will have a degree, advanced command training or graduation from the FBI National Academy and 7-10 years of management or supervisory experience, as well as experience in the varied programs offered by the Department.

There are currently 29 full-time and 8 part-time sworn officers in the Department.

Sheriff Seeks Candidates for Youth Service Medal of Honor

Sheriff Michael Sheahan is seeking candidates for the annual Sheriff's Youth Service Medal of Honor Award. Applications are available at the Village Hall or on line at www.cookcountysheriff.org.

The award is available to students in grades nine through twelve who have contributed at least 100 hours of volunteer service between September 1, 2002 and August 31, 2003. The application must be **postmarked no later than October 3, 2003**.

Last year, 266 students received the award, contributing over 40,000 hours of service in hospitals, churches and other charitable organizations.

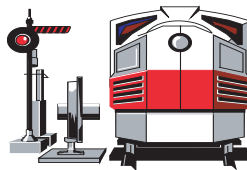
For additional information regarding qualifications or the application process, please call the Youth Services Department at (708) 865-2900.

Commuter Parking Permits On Sale November 1

Riders on the Heritage Corridor Line are reminded that the 2004 Commuter Lot Parking Permits will go on sale November 1. Permitted parking spots are limited and will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis, either in person or by mail.

Applications will NOT be accepted before November 1.

For additional information, please contact the Village Hall at 630-257-1550.



Permit Fees:

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1 Quarter | \$ 50.00 |
| 6-Month | \$ 98.50 |
| 3 Quarters | \$ 147.00 |
| Full Year | \$ 196.00 |

A daily parking fee of \$1.00 is payable at the METRA lot. The coin box is located adjacent to the parking lot near the train station.

Historic Preservation Commission Nominates 3 Landmarks

Public Hearing: September 11 - 6:30 p.m.

The Historic Preservation Commission has announced the nomination of three buildings in the Historic District as local landmarks:

Lemont Village Hall
418 Main Street

Lemont Train Station
101 Main Street

Old St. Patrick School
[St. James Academy]
220 Illinois Street

The buildings represent three excellent examples of construction using Lemont limestone referred to as "Athens Marble." Only about a dozen buildings in the Historic District have this distinction. All three buildings meet the criteria set forth for landmark status in the Historic Preservation Ordinance.

The Ordinance requires a public hearing on the nominations which has been scheduled for Thursday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Village Hall. The public is invited to attend and comment on the nominations. Final approval will be voted on by the Village Board.

The Commission's goal is to nominate three structures every year. The Commission will install a bronze plaque on each building, identifying it as a landmark and giving a brief history of the building.

For more information, please contact Tim Teddy, Community Development Director at 630-257-1595.

— THANK YOU! —

Many thanks to the following companies who missed our last Newsletter acknowledging their Heritage Fest '03 Sponsorship: Waste Management, Eagle Level Corporate Sponsor; Morris Engineering, Inc., Liberty Level Corporate Sponsor; Suburban Bank & Trust Co., Children's Activity Level Sponsor; CHAOS Kids, Lemon Tree Casual Dining, Lemont Kitchen & Bath, and Totura's Food Center, Friend of Fest Level Sponsors.



Have some FUN in Lemont



this FALL!

Farmer's Market

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



Lemont St. & Canal St.
Every Tuesday Thru October 28th

September 13th: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Rummage Sale
Lemont United Methodist Church
255 W. Custer Street, Fellowship Hall
Lots & lots of great bargains & treasures!
Light refreshments will be available.

September 13th: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Community Expo at Lesnieski Center
Lemont Chamber of Commerce Businesses
Display their Wares and Services. For
information call 630-257-5997.

September 13th: 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Rain Date: September 20th
Lemont Classic Car Club Presents
Last Blast Cruise Night "At The Hop"
Lemon Tree Restaurant, State St. and
Keepataw Dr., Entry Fee \$15.00 OR \$5.00
plus a new toy (ages 2-12). For more
information, call Frank at 630-257-6346.

September 24th: 7:00 p.m.
Historic Route #66
Display & Presentation
Lemont Area Historical Society
306 Lemont Street. FREE!
For info contact 630-257-2972.

September 27th: 5:30 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
"What a Novel Idea" Live Radio Drama
Lemont Area Historical Society
Advance Tickets: \$15.00.
For information or to obtain tickets:
Lemont Historical Society: 630-257-2972;
Lemont Village Hall: 630-257-1590.

October 3rd: 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Lemont Art Walk
Stroll around beautiful downtown Lemont
to view artwork from a variety of artists
displaying their work at local merchants.

October 4th: 6:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Tri-County SRA Dance
Lesnieski Center
For information call 630-257-6787.

October 5th: 1:00 p.m.
Lemont Garden Club Presents
Holiday Beginnings
Cog Hill Golf & Country Club
An afternoon of creative floral designs to
celebrate the coming holiday season.
Tickets: \$15.00. For further info contact
Pamela Laasch at 630-257-6010.

October 8th: *4:30 p.m. & *6:00 p.m.
Ladies Aid Turkey Dinner
Servings at 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
*Must have ticket in advance.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church.
Complete turkey dinner with all the
trimmings. For ticket information contact
630-257-5000.

October 10th & 11th
Lemont Lions Club Candy Days
For information call Ken Griffin at
630-257-7555.

October 12th
Best of the Midwest Chili Cook-Off &
Scarecrow Contest
Centennial Community Center
For information call 630-257-6787.

October 18th: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Halloween Spooktacular
Supported by the Lemont Jaycees.
Costume contest and parade. Moon Jump,
games, prizes and much more! For
information call 630-257-6787.

Last 3 Weekends in October
Lemont Jaycees Haunted House
Friday & Saturday: 7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Old True Value Bldg. Next to Chipain's
For information call 630-257-2423.

November 1st: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
For the Love of Art
Centennial Community Center
Artist Applications are available at Lemont
Park District. Admission for the general
public is FREE. For info: 630-257-6787.

November 8th: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Turkey Hoops
Centennial Community Center Gym
Free throws win you a turkey. For further
information call 630-257-6787.

November 8th: 6:00 p.m.
St. Alphonsus 7th Annual Dinner Dance
Cog Hill Country Club
Begins with 5:00 p.m. Mass at St. Al's.
Dinner Dance at 6:00 p.m. Live Auction &
50/50 Raffle. For information call Pat
Perkie, Special Events Coordinator at
630-257-3569.



October 25th

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Halloween Hoedown

Historic Downtown Lemont
Sponsored by Festival Committee
& Downtown Commission.
For information: 630-243-2700.

- **Costume Parade: 1:00 p.m.**
- **Line-Up at 12:30 p.m. at Legion Park;**
- **Haywagon Rides;**
- **Frightening Photos;**
- **Kid's Activities at General Fry's Landing;**
- **Trick or Treat in downtown stores.**

Happy Halloween!



Coming in December!

- "Shop Lemont for the Holidays"
- Hometown Holiday Series of Events
- Midnight Madness - December 19th

Watch local papers & the Village website for details.

NOTE: This listing is subject to change.
For the most up-to-date community
events listing, please 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



Don't miss Halloween Hoedown!
Saturday, October 25
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Costume Parade - 1:00 p.m.
Line-up at 12:30 p.m.
Legion Park - Historic Downtown Lemont



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 - 7:30 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