



# Village News

Volume XII No.4  
December 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.

### Inside This Issue

- Mayor's Corner . . . . . 1
- New Police Chief . . . . . 3
- Snow Parking . . . . . 4
- Winter Events . . . . . 7



**Don't Miss . . .**

**Hometown Holiday**  
**Saturday, December 6**  
**1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Downtown Lemont**

**Tree Lighting**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
**Budnik Plaza**

**Midnight Madness**  
**Shop-a-thon**  
**Friday, December 19**  
**6:00 p.m. - Midnight**

**Visit us on the web**  
**at [www.lemont.il.us](http://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

As the year draws to a close, it's always a good idea to look back over the past year to assess our progress, even as we look forward to the challenges of the coming year already shaping up on the horizon.

Over the past 2 months, the Board has put a great deal of effort into filling a key position in the Village organization, Chief of Police. Out of an excellent field of over 60 candidates, all with a great deal of education and experience, we are fortunate to have our top pick, Kevin Shaughnessy, as our new Chief of Police. In addition to a great resume, Kevin brings an attitude and enthusiasm that exemplifies this administration's view of a Chief of Police. The Board feels he will be a great leader and example for the entire Department.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the enormous contribution of retiring Chief Jack Bluis. He was able to guide the Department effectively for 11 years through a period of the community's most significant growth, achieving C.A.L.E.A. accreditation for the Department in 2003.

Last March, the Village and the Chamber of Commerce collaborated to present Lemont's first formal State of the Village Report, a comprehensive account of Village finances, administration and departmental functions. The presentation was well received and we have already begun working with the Chamber to repeat the Report in March, 2004.

To assist in future planning for all Village Departments over the next several years, Wight & Company, a consultant hired by the Village, has just completed a projected space needs



*Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2*

## From the Mayor's Desk

analysis for the Police, Public Works and Administration departments. This is the first step in the process of determining future capital improvement finance requirements and designing facilities to meet community needs for the next 25 years.

At this time last year, the Stephen Street reconstruction project was only a plan on paper. Now this \$2.25 million project is complete with the exception of some punch list items and landscaping. I would encourage all residents to stop downtown to take a look at the improvements. The downtown business owners experienced some real growing pains during the ordeal but all of them have lived to tell the tale. Their patience during the process is certainly appreciated.

Another successful annual road program has also wrapped up with about 5.5 lane miles resurfaced in the program and a complete reconstruction of Country Lane & Country Court. Two more alleys were transformed from gravel to asphalt during this construction season. Additionally, 3,506 feet of water main was replaced and 4,150 feet of sewer line was separated. In our on-going effort to provide safer pedestrian walkways for the community, 3,287 square feet of sidewalk was installed this summer.

All four of the pedestrian bridges have been installed and the expanded I & M Canal bike & hiking path is now completely cleared and looped. Thanks to the Public Works Department for a great job on this project. Plans for the opening of Heritage Quarries Park are already underway and we anticipate having a formal opening celebration in June.

I have already reported in depth on the annexation of the 205 acres of MWRD property which the Village will re-zone to more compatible and less intense uses. It is probably the most significant achievement to date in our goal to provide a cleaner environment along the waterway corridor.

No report of 2003 would be complete without mentioning the July 27 flood and the resulting damage to many village drainage areas. Capital improvement funds had to be diverted from other projects and priorities have been shifted to give first precedence to these necessary repairs. The drainage channel between Freehauf and Schultz streets has already been reshaped and realigned to prevent future flooding.

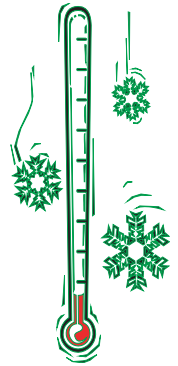
It has been nearly 3 years since I was elected to office. The challenges have been great and at times the work has been trying. However, the achievements have been abundant and the satisfaction indescribable. I promise that this administration will stay the course and do everything in our power to fulfill the mandate set out almost three years ago.

As we close out the year, I want to mention a word of thanks to the citizens who serve on the Village review boards and commissions. Government cannot be effective without public participation. We all lead busy lives, but these citizens make the time to be involved in the planning, development, environmental monitoring, preservation and public safety of the community.

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

*John F. Piazza, Mayor*

## Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for Seniors



PLOWS Council on Aging will assist senior citizens with applications for the 2004 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The program is available to assist low income households with winter heating costs. LIHEAP is a federal program administered by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs.

To qualify for LIHEAP, a household must meet the financial eligibility guidelines set by federal regulations. Eligibility is based on a household's total (gross) income for 30 days preceding the date of application.

Persons/ Household	30-day Income
1	\$ 1,123
2	\$ 1,515
3	\$ 1,907

Examples of some common sources of income include Social Security and SSI, VA pensions, Railroad Retirement or other pensions. Federal guidelines require that specific documentation must be provided with each application.

If you believe you may be eligible to apply for this important benefit, please call the PLOWS office for more information or to learn what documentation you will need to bring with you to your appointment.

**Individuals will be seen by appointment only. Call PLOWS at 708-361-0219 to schedule.**

### Single-Family Rehabilitation Loans Available through CDBG Program



Does that home sweet home of yours need fixing up? A new roof? New furnace? Siding? Chicago Southland Development, Inc. the Cook County authorized Community Development Block Grant program administrator for Lemont, can help if you meet the following qualifications:

- Household income meets the qualifications indicated below.
- You are the owner and live in the home.
- There is equity to cover the amount of the repairs.

No. of Persons in Household	Total Household Income Not to Exceed:
1	\$39,550
2	\$45,200
3	\$50,850
4	\$56,600
5	\$61,000
6	\$65,500
7	\$70,050
8+	\$74,600

If you answered yes to the above questions, Chicago Southland Development can rehabilitate your home with federal CDBG funds. You will not make any monthly payments and there is never any interest.

#### How does the program work?

Your home will be liened for the full dollar amount of the rehabilitation. When the title transfers, the entire amount is paid back from the proceeds of the sale.

For more details about the program, please call the program administrator, Gail Brown, and Chicago Southland Development, Inc. (708) 754-2206.

## Village News & Info

### Lemont Welcomes New Police Chief

After a two month selection process, Kevin Shaughnessy, Illinois State Police District Commander of District 5 Joliet, has been named as Lemont's new Chief of Police. Chief Shaughnessy brings over 25 years of law enforcement experience to the position. Shaughnessy, a resident of Tinley Park, holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Arizona State University and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Chicago State University.



**Kevin Shaughnessy**  
Chief of Police

Chief Shaughnessy has served in command positions with the Illinois State Police for the past 15 years, and during his career has been recognized as an innovator in law enforcement. Prior to his appointment as District Commander, Kevin was selected as the first Commander of the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force, working closely with area police chiefs to establish one of the largest and most successful violent crime task forces in the nation.

Kevin was chosen from a field of over 60 very qualified candidates to lead the Lemont department's 29 full-time and 8 part-time officers. Resource Management Associates, a consultant hired by the Village, assisted in the recruitment and screening of the applicants.

Chief Shaughnessy will officially assume the role of Police Chief on January 5th.

### Village Ordinance Regulates Motorized Scooters

In the interest of providing for the safety of Lemont's residents, an ordinance was recently enacted to regulate the use of motorized skateboards, scooters, go-carts and mini-bikes on public property.

These vehicles have become a popular means of transportation for youngsters not old enough to drive, and some resulting safety issues prompted a review of the existing ordinances.

Riding or driving of motorized skateboards, scooters, go-carts and mini-bikes is not permitted on public streets, parking lots, sidewalks or bike paths. The vehicles may be permitted on private property with the permission of the property owner or in public or quasi-public areas where signs are posted permitting the motorized vehicles.



# 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.*

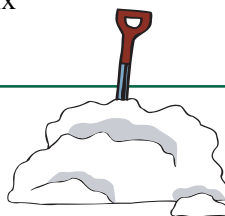
Watch Channel 6

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.

## 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.

## To Avoid Frozen Pipes

- Fill holes in doors, windows and walls near water pipes and meter.
- Be sure heat can circulate around meter and pipe areas.
- Insulate water pipes and meters to prevent freezing.
- Check insulation around pipes and meters frequently for leaks.
- Be sure water meter vault covers are not cracked.
- In prolonged periods of very cold weather, let a continuous trickle of water run in a sink or bathtub fixture to keep water circulating.

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS NOW AT 7:00 P.M.**

On November 10, the Village Board officially changed the time of its regular meetings to 7:00 p.m. Regular meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month in the Council Room at the Village Hall. The Committee of the Whole workshop meeting takes place on the third Monday. All regular meetings are broadcast live on Cable T.V. Channel 6 by Lemont Community T.V. volunteers.

Public comment at regular meetings is encouraged for agenda items. At the Committee of the Whole meeting, audience participation is permitted on any topic after the agenda items have concluded.

The agenda is posted on the Village web site at [www.lemont.il.us](http://www.lemont.il.us) on the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

The Village of Lemont is committed to open and participatory government. All Village meetings are open to the public and all residents are invited to attend.

**To Contact Village Departments**

General Information	630-257-1550
Administration Department	630-257-1590
Building Department	630-257-1580
Engineering	630-257-2532
Mayor's Office	630-257-1590
Planning Department	630-257-1595
Police /Fire Emergency	9-1-1
Police Non Emergency	630-257-2229
Public Works Department	630-257-2532
Water Billing Department	630-257-6277
Community TV Channel 6	630-257-8941
Village Hall FAX	630-257-1598
Administration FAX	630-243-0958

**Downtown Progress**



*Stephen Street "Before"*



*Stephen Street "After"*

*New sidewalks, street lighting pavement and most importantly, new infrastructure improvements downtown.*



*The addition of landscaping will add the finishing touch to the street planters. Landscaping will be added in the spring.*



*With the completion of the Stephen Street reconstruction, the downtown now presents a more unified appearance with an attractive streetscape and a more walkable shopping district.*



**Holiday Hours Village Offices**

Village offices will be closed on December 24 and 25 and open for business on Friday, December 26. Offices will also be closed on Thursday, January 1.

## HOMETOWN HOLIDAY EVENT SERIES

**Saturday, December 6th: 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Tree Decorating Throughout Town.  
*Call to Adopt-A-Tree: 630-243-2700.*
- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Horsedrawn Wagon Rides.  
*Starts at Budnik Plaza by the Mural.*
- 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Ice Sculpting Demonstration at Budnik Plaza.
- 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Story Time With Mrs. Santa Claus at Safety Village.
- 3:00 - 3:45 p.m. Toy Soldier Holiday Show at Safety Village.
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Pictures With Santa at Safety Village.  
*Follow Santa to the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Budnik's Plaza.*
- 5:00 p.m. til ? Tree Lighting Ceremony Sponsored by the Lemont Jaycees at Budnik Plaza.

**Friday, December 19th: 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!*
- Evening Carolers  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Allegro Music Academy  
8:00 - 10:00 p.m. Canticum Novum Chamber Choir
- 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Trolley Rides Around Town.

### SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER Lemont History Books \$15.00 with Coupon

Redeem this coupon to save \$5.00 on the Lemont Anniversary Book available at Lemont Village Hall, 418 Main Street, Lemont Public Library, 50 E. Wend Street and Lemont Historical Society, 306 Lemont Street. This volume is packed with historic photos and a very readable history of the town you call home!

**\$5.00**

**COUPON**

**\$5.00**

**Good toward purchase of  
one Lemont Anniversary History Book**

**Price with Coupon: \$15.00**

Offer expires December 31, 2003

## Shop Lemont for the Holidays Begins November 28th!

Downtown merchants will feature two special promotions for all your gift-giving needs this holiday season! Starting November 28th, with each qualifying purchase at participating downtown shops and restaurants, the customer will receive a raffle entry with their receipt for a chance to win great cash, prizes and gift certificates donated by downtown merchants.



**Look for the Stocking  
in the window!  
Contest runs through  
midnight, December 19th.**



Downtown merchants will stay open until midnight on Friday, December 19th for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Special promotions and holiday gift items will be featured as well as carolers and trolley rides. 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.

**Shop Lemont  
for the Holidays  
Begins November 28th!**



Be eligible to win valuable prizes by shopping at Historic Downtown Lemont's participating merchants! Program continues through midnight, December 19th. Look for the Holiday Stocking in participating store windows!

**"Toys for Santa"**

**Lemont Jaycees Will be Collecting Toys for Santa Through December 20th!**

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. There will be collection boxes at: Totura's, Chipain's, Hemlock Federal Bank, Community Bank of Lemont, and Nu-Look Car Wash. If you would like to make a donation and are unable to make it to one of the above 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 info call 630-257-5997.

**December 3rd: 6:00 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 5th: 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Lemont Friendship Garden  
Club Poinsettia Sale Pick-Up**

If you placed an order, pick it up at the Metra Train Station. For further info call 630-257-6255 or 630-257-7889.



**December 6th: 1:00 - 6:00 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.*



**December 6th: 9:00 a.m. - 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 6th: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Lemont Dist. 113A PTA Hosts the Annual  
Santa's Secret Shop and Fun Fair**

Location: River Valley School. Volunteers needed. For information or to volunteer call 630-257-2286, Ext. 2.

**December 7th: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Lemont Area Historical Society Annual  
Christmas Choral Concert and  
Homemade Cookie Sale**

Doors open at 12:30 p.m. in the Old Stone Church, 306 Lemont Street. For info call 630-257-2972. Free admission.

**December 7th: 9:00 a.m. to Noon  
Breakfast With Santa.  
Requires Pre-Registration.**

Lesnieski Center, 16050 127th Street. Adult: \$5.00; Youth 5-12: \$4.00; 4 Years & Under: \$3.00; \$1.00 more per person at the door. All youth and child tickets include picture with Santa or face painting. For further info call the Park District at 630-257-6787.

**December 12th: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Lemont Chamber of Commerce Open House**

Location: Lemont Metra Train Station. For more information call the Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

**December 13th: 8:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.  
Lemont Junior Woman's Club Hosts its  
10th Annual Benefit Breakfast With Santa**

Location: Cog Hill Country Club. Two seatings, at 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 for children 1 to 3, \$10 ages 4 to 12 and \$17 ages 13 & older. Event includes a visit and picture with Santa, sleigh ride, strolling magician, balloon artists and a buffet breakfast. Families are asked to bring a gift for a needy child. For tickets or further information call Daralyn Duffy at 630-257-5945.



**December 14th: 7:00 p.m.  
Lemont High School Band Christmas Concert**  
Location: Lemont High School, 800 Porter Street. For further info contact 630-257-7811 (Chris Bryla).

**Friday, December 19th: 6:00 to 11:00 p.m.  
Hometown Holiday II**  
Historic Downtown Carolers and trolley rides set the mood for holiday shopping!

**Friday, December 19th:  
Midnight Madness Sale  
6:00 p.m. til Midnight**  
Historic Downtown Participating Merchants will stay open until midnight for the convenience of holiday shoppers.



Special promotions and holiday gift items will be featured. Last chance to get entered into the "Shop Lemont" contest!

**December 28th: 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Franciscan Village Holiday House Walk 2003**  
Open to the public. For details, please call 630-243-3500, x 3435.

**January 13th: 7:00 p.m. at River Valley School  
The Mystery Shop Storytelling**  
An interactive, participatory storytelling event that includes tall tales, funny fables, bittersweet legends and spine-tinglers. For more info call 630-257-2286, Ext. 2. *Sponsored by the Lemont District 113A PTA.*

**January 24th: 6:00 p.m.  
Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner Dance**  
Cog Hill Country Club. For more information call the Lemont Chamber office at 630-257-5997.

# 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



**Hometown Holiday**  
*Historic Downtown Lemont*  
**Saturday, December 6**  
**1:00 - 6:00 p.m.**  
**Tree Lighting - 5:00 p.m.**  
**Budnik Plaza**



## 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](mailto:vlemont@lemont.il.us)  
website address: [www.lemont.il.us](http://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