



Village News

Volume XI No.4
December 1, 2002

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 7
1:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Downtown Lemont
Tree Lighting
4:30 p.m.
Budnik Plaza

Midnight Madness
Shop-a-thon
Friday, December 20

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



Mayor John Piazza
Charlene Smollen, Clerk

Board of Trustees:

- John Benik
- Debby Blatzer
- Peter Coules
- Connie Markiewicz
- Steven Rosendahl
- Jeanette Virgilio



*From our families to yours,
a very Happy Holiday Season!*

From the Mayor's Desk

It is hard to believe that the year 2002 is essentially behind us and we will be ushering in the New Year shortly. The past year has been filled with many accomplishments and exciting proposals for the Village of Lemont.

Our historic downtown has been the focus of many of the projects that we embarked upon this year. At our request, Hitchcock & Associates completed a study of our downtown and canal corridor. The end result was a very exciting development plan that is detailed in the "Lemont Waterfront Opportunities" brochure. Coupled with this project is a Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) study that is in progress at this moment. The TOD study is being funded via an RTA grant and will focus on specific sites and transit related development plans in the downtown.

I would be remiss in speaking of the downtown if I did not mention another very successful year of "Cruise Nights" sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce, the Village, and many others earned the Governor's Hometown Award for this year. Thanks to all the volunteers who participated in this fantastic event.

The reconstruction of Stephen Street is on schedule for next Spring. The project will include providing new sewer and water service to the area, new sidewalks, pavement, and a detailed "streetscape" design. Once completed, this project will be a catalyst for future



Mayor's Message cont'd on p. 2

From the Mayor's Desk

development and promotion of our downtown.

The Lemont Plaza on State Street has also received much attention this year. I am pleased to announce that the Plaza is under new ownership. The new owners, G.K. Development, have committed to investing \$1,000,000 to improve the Plaza. The money will be used to improve lighting, sidewalks, facades, landscaping, and other items. We are anxiously awaiting the start of this project.

The reconstruction of 127th Street from Smith Road to Archer is on schedule for the year 2004. It will include widening of this major arterial road and installing sidewalks and lighting to provide a safer passage for the pedestrian traffic along this route.

We are once again on track with respect to the Heritage Quarries Project. We have executed the MWRD lease on 86 acres of land and have completed clearing a path around the entire site. The final product will include pedestrian bridges across the I&M Canal, parking facilities, fishing stations, picnic areas, camping shelters, a nature center, and boat launches for non-motorized watercraft. Early next year we will invite the public out to tour the site and provide feedback with respect to the possibilities for this enormous resource.

In conjunction with the Heritage Quarries Project, we are researching the possibility of connecting the Willow Springs Centennial Trail bike path with the I&M Canal Trails Systems. This plan would require a pedestrian bridge over the Sanitary Ship Canal. Fortunately, we have received a grant by the Southwest Council of Mayors for Phase I engineering on this project.

It is no secret that Lemont is a very desirable community to call "home." Accordingly, we continue to see a steady flow of subdivision proposals by developers. The good news is that quality developers that deliver a "high-end" product submit the vast majority of proposals. Since April of 2001, there have been a total of 123 single-family detached units and 138 townhome units approved by the Village Board. These are very modest numbers in comparison to the developments approved in the prior years.

Also, it is important to note that the data proves that townhome units have very little impact on our school system and that the projects that have been approved sell in the "upper-price" ranges. Our goal is to maintain a housing stock that consists of approximately 90% single-family detached residences. The subdivision projects that have been approved by this board are consistent and compatible with the surrounding neighborhoods. We are extremely confident that they will have a positive impact on the value of property and the entire community. I can assure you that we will continue to be very strict in the application of our subdivision standards and ordinances. Additionally, I believe that this information is testimony to our commitment and ability to effectively manage the growth in our community.

Finally, I look forward to hearing from each and every one of you with respect to the direction that we have taken for our community. The Village Board and I wish you the very safest and happiest of Holidays.

Sincerely,

John F. Piazza, Mayor

Shop Lemont for the Holidays Begins November 29!

Downtown merchants will feature two special promotions for all your gift-giving needs this holiday season! Starting November 29th, 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 20. Drawing will be held
Saturday, December 21.**



Downtown merchants will stay open until midnight on Friday, December 20 for the convenience of holiday shoppers. Special promotions and holiday gift items will be featured. Midnight Madness was such a hit with holiday shoppers last year that downtown stores are repeating the event. Leave the mall crowds behind and take advantage of the opportunity to browse in the unique shops in historic downtown Lemont!

Downtown in Progress

COMPLETE RECONSTRUCTION OF STEPHEN STREET SLATED FOR 2003

Take a good look at Stephen Street “before.” At this time next year, a complete reconstruction will be winding down, showcasing a fully transformed streetscape. In addition to installation of new water main from Porter Street to the north end of Stephen Street, the project will include replacement of storm and sanitary sewers, all new pavement, new street lighting, re-designed sidewalks, crosswalks, and landscaping, including the addition of street trees and landscaped areas. The project area will extend from Illinois Street to the north end of Stephen Street.

In January, the project is scheduled to be bid, and a contract will be awarded in February. Installation of water main, water services and sewer work is scheduled to begin in March. By May, paving and streetscape work will be underway. Portions of Stephen Street will be closed at various times for up to 1 month during each stage of the reconstruction. Alternatives for parking and access to Stephen Street merchants are being explored by Village staff and a committee of downtown business owners.

During the street closure, north Stephen Street traffic will be diverted via Canal Street to Ed Bossert Drive, allowing for full access to the Post Office and other services located at the north end of Stephen Street.

In August, the intersection at Stephen Street and Canal Street will be closed for approximately one week to permit intersection repairs. New street lighting will follow in September, with landscaping, new street furniture and trees in October. If all construction remains on schedule, the project should be substantially completed by Halloween Hoedown (October 25) of next year. Final touches should be completed by Thanksgiving, 2003.

Teska Associates, Inc. provided the design services for the reconstruction project, and a majority of the estimated project cost of \$2.5 million will be funded by TIF (Tax Increment Finance) funds.



*Existing Conditions
June, 2002*



*Perspective Sketch - Proposed Landscape Improvements
View Looking South from Stephen Street Towards Barber Shop*



*Existing Conditions
June, 2002*



*Perspective Sketch - Proposed Landscape Improvements
View Looking Northwest from Intersection of Canal Street & Stephen Street*

Inconvenience will be inevitable during the course of the reconstruction. However, the end result will be a more attractive street and a more functional downtown. Residents are urged to continue to patronize downtown businesses throughout the construction process.

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.

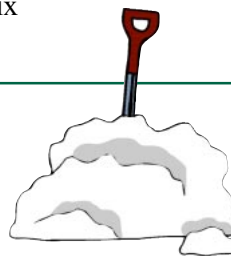
The day is considered to begin at 9:00 a.m.

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

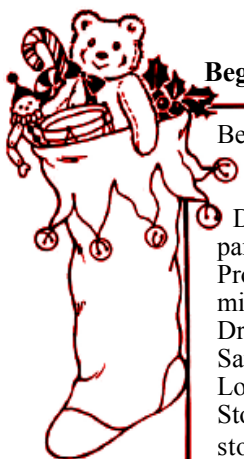
- Fill holes in doors, windows and walls near water pipes and meter.
- Be sure heat can circulate around meter and pipe areas.
- Insulate water pipes and meters to prevent freezing.
- Check insulation around pipes and meters frequently for leaks.
- Be sure water meter vault covers are not cracked.
-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

Lemont Friendship Garden Club Poinsettia Sale. Order Thru 11/22. Pick up at Metra Train Station **December 5th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.** For info or to order call Annie @ 630-257-6255.



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.

Shop Lemont for the Holidays Begins November 29th!



Be eligible to win valuable prizes by shopping at Historic Downtown Lemont's participating merchants! Program continues thru midnight, December 20. Drawing to be held Saturday, December 21st. Look for the Holiday Stocking in participating stores.

November 30th : Santa Claus Arrives on Metra Trains.



Metra is continuing its popular "Santa Trains," on its Heritage Corridor Service between Chicago and Joliet with candy, toys, magic displays, and raffle prizes. Metra employees also use the event to underscore the importance of railroad safety for parents and children. Round trip tickets are \$3 and can be purchased on Heritage Corridor trains, downtown terminals and outlying ticket-selling locations. **Advance ticket sales only.** For more information, call Metra Passenger Services at 312-322-6777 or contact a Metra ticket agent. From Lemont, leave 10:16 a.m., arrive Union Station 11:08 a.m., leave Union Station 1:00 p.m., arrive in Lemont 1:44 p.m.

December 1st: 7:00 p.m. Christmas Concert "Stars & Promises Tour Returns"
 First Church of the Nazarene, 12725 Bell Road. Ticket Information: Adults, \$15.00; Children 6-18, \$5.00; Age 5 & Under Free; Seniors 62+ Free. Tickets available at First Church of the Nazarene office, Happy Hands Pre-School, United Methodist Church, Allegro Music Academy, or by contacting Lisa Alvey at 630-257-7292. Previous shows have been sell-outs! Mark your calendars and get your tickets now!!

December 4th: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Santa's Calling.
 Children of Lemont are on Santa's special phone call list this holiday season. For further info: 630-257-6787, after Thanksgiving, to register your child. Lemont Park District residents only please!



December 7th: 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 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 7th: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Holiday Craft Bazaar
 Old Quarry Middle School
 Sponsored by Lemont Park District.
 For information contact the Park District at 630-257-6787.

December 8th: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Lemont Area Historical Society Annual Christmas Choral Concert & Homemade Cookie Sale
 Doors open at 12:30 p.m. in the Old Stone Church, 306 Lemont Street. For info 257-2972. Free admission.

December 8th: 9:00 a.m. to Noon Breakfast With Santa. Requires Pre-Registration.
 Lesnieski Center, 16050 127th Street.
 Adult - \$5.00, Youth - \$4.00, 4 & Under - \$3.00, \$1.00 more per person at the door.
 For further info call the Park District at 630-257-6787.



Friday, December 20th: 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.



January 23rd: 7:00 p.m. "Landscape Design Basics," Speaker: Deb Terrill
 Lemont Public Library. Lemont Friendship Garden Club Members Meeting prior at 6:30 p.m. For Info: 257-6255 (Annie).

January 25th: 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.

February 7th and February 14th: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Daddy Daughter Date Nights
 Centennial Community Center. For more information call the Park District office at 630-257-6787.

February 27th: 7:00 p.m. "Color for all Seasons," (from Growing Place, Naperville), Speaker: Jeannette Goodlow.
 Lemont Public Library. Lemont Friendship Garden Club Members Meeting prior at 6:30 p.m. For Info: 257-6255 (Annie).

Village News & Info

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for Seniors

PLOWS Council on Aging will assist senior citizens with applications for the 2002 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. The Community Economic Development Association (CEDA) has local responsibility for the program. Applications are forwarded to CEDA for approval and processing of payment.

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

Persons/ Household	30-day Income
1	\$ 1,108
2	\$ 1,493
3	\$ 1,878

Examples of some common sources of income include Social Security and SSI, VA pensions, Railroad Retirement or other pensions, earnings from employment, alimony, interest, and dividends. Persons receiving a Social Security check by mail should make a copy of the check prior to cashing it.

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.

Hometown Holiday

**Historic Downtown Lemont
Saturday, December 7th • 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.**



- 1:00 - 4:00 pm Ice Sculpting Demonstrations at Budnik Plaza.
- 1:00 - 5:00 pm Horse Drawn Wagon Rides.
(Starts at Budnik Plaza by the Mural.)
- 2:00 - 4:00 pm Story Time with Mrs. Claus at Safety Village on Stephen Street. *Sponsored by Lemont Jr. Woman's Club.*
- 3:30 - 4:15 pm Allegro Music Academy Children's Choir at Budnik Plaza.
- 4:30 pm Arrival of Santa and Tree Lighting Ceremony at Budnik's Plaza.
- 4:30 - 6:30 pm Canticum Novum Choir. Starts at Budnik Plaza and goes throughout town.
- 5:00 - 6:00 pm Pictures with Santa at Safety Village.
Proceeds benefit Liver Foundation for Kids.
- 5:00 - 8:00 pm Trolley Rides. (Starts at Budnik Plaza.)
- 5:00 - 8:00 pm Sleigh Rides. (Starts at Safety Village).
- 6:00 - 6:45 pm Xmas Cookie Caper Holiday Puppet Show at Safety Village.

For information call 630-243-2700.

Sponsored by the Village of Lemont & Downtown Merchants Association

**Comprehensive Plan
Now On-Line**

On October 21, 2002, the Village Board approved a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Village and its planning jurisdiction, which will become the blueprint for land use decisions for the next several years. Many months of effort by the Community Development Department and Plan Commission, hearings and public comment have gone into producing the document.

Areas of focus in the plan which differ greatly from its 1993 predecessor include transportation-related issues and development. The waterway corridor is featured prominently in the revision, including the foundation for a comprehensive bikeway and trail plan. Over the next few months, graphics will be added to the completed text and the document will be professionally printed and prepared for distribution.

The text of the 50-page, 12 chapter Comprehensive Plan and its accompanying land use map are now available on line at www.lemont.il.us.

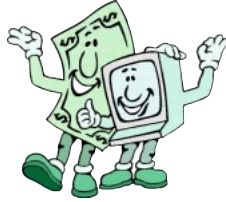
Army Corps Accepts I & M Ecosystem Restoration Plan

The Village of Lemont has requested acceptance of its I & M Canal Restoration plan by the Chicago District of the Army Corps of Engineers under the Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program. The request has been approved by the Corps and initial studies are underway. W. Kenneth Derickson & Associates has prepared a conceptual design report for the restoration of the I & M Canal from the IMTT facility to the Austeel access road.

The Village owns the canal and a 90-foot strip on either side of the canal from the IMTT facility on the east to the Will County line on the west. An additional portion of the canal has been leased from the IDNR from the Will County line westward. Over time, sediment has accumulated in the Canal, resulting in poor water flow and less than ideal water quality. The restoration project will dredge the entire length of the Canal and should vastly improve water quality and flow.

The Army Corps has already planned a restoration project for a large portion of the canal east of Lemont. The implementation of the Lemont plan will be subject to funding availability from the Corps of Engineers. It may be as long as five years until the actual dredging project takes place, but the Village is working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Army Corps to lay the groundwork for this important step in protection and promotion of this valuable local resource.

New Program



Direct Debit for Water Bills To Be Available in January

Village of Lemont water customers will have the option of using direct debit to pay water & sewer charges beginning in January, 2003. The Finance Department has been testing the system for several months and is now ready to offer this service to customers.

The water customer must come in person to the Village Hall to complete a registration form and provide a voided blank check to enroll in the direct debit program. Once this process is completed, the customer's water & sewer charges will be automatically deducted from their checking account.

The customer will continue to receive a bi-monthly bill noting water usage and charges for the billing period and notifying them of the debit to their account. For more information on this hassle-free direct debit payment method, please contact the Finance Department at (630) 257-1550.

Police Department Assessment Hearing December 10



A 4-day on-site assessment of the Lemont Police Department will take place December 7 - 11, 2002. A team from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (C.A.L.E.A.) will remain in Lemont during these four days to perform the assessment.

On December 10, Lemont citizens will have an opportunity to attend a public hearing to offer comments on the Department. The hearing will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Lemont Public Library, 50 E. Wend Street, Lemont. Residents are urged to attend this public comment session to relate experiences and offer support for the Police Department's application for accreditation with C.A.L.E.A.

Residents who are not able to attend the public hearing may provide comments by phone on December 10 between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. by calling (630) 774-3166. Written comments may be sent to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement, Inc., 10306 Eaton Place, Suite 320, Fairfax, VA 22030-2201.

What: Public Hearing on Police Department Accreditation
When: December 10, 2002, 7:00 p.m.
Where: Lemont Public Library, 50 E. Wend Street
Who: All residents are invited to appear and offer comments.

For additional information on the public hearing, please contact Commander Don Jones at 257-2228.

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
Downtown Lemont
Saturday, December 7
1:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Tree Lighting - 4:30 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@aol.com
website address: www.lemont.il.us

Mayor

John F. Piazza

Clerk

Charlene Smollen

Trustees

John Benik	Connie Markiewicz
Debby Blatzer	Steven Rosendahl
Peter Coules	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