



The Lakewood Newsletter

From the President

Dear Neighbors:

As I write this article, it is a beautiful and sunny day in the Village of Lakewood. But the bitterly cold weather remains and is a reminder that the long winter season has not yet ended. While I know that many of our residents have been frustrated by damaged mailboxes and snow piled at the end of driveways and in cul-de-sacs, please know that we are not alone as residents throughout the area face these same challenges. During one of the most daunting winter seasons of the past few decades, our Public Works crew has worked tirelessly and with limited resources (manpower and otherwise) to keep our streets safe and passable. If you see one of these employees during the course of the day, please consider extending a “thank you” as they are truly the unsung heroes of municipal government.

Personnel

While it doesn't seem possible, the reality is that spring is (hopefully) just around the corner. Spring is a wonderful season for new beginnings, and nowhere is that more evident than within our staff. After more than thirty-nine years of exemplary law enforcement service, including ten years as Chief of Police in the Village of Lakewood, Chief Howell has announced his retirement effective May 16, 2014. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, we want to thank Chief Howell for the fiscal oversight and professionalism that he has brought to the Lakewood Police Department. His leadership will be missed. A recruitment is underway and we plan to have a new Chief of Police in place prior to Chief Howell's retirement.

As many of you know, our Public Works Director, Paul Ruscko, left last summer to accept the challenge of working in a larger community. With his departure, the staff and Board of Trustees discussed how to most effectively fill our organizational needs at this time. It was agreed that the position of Deputy Village Manager, with direct oversight of the Public Works Department, provides the most flexibility for our organization. The response to the recruitment was strong, and I am pleased to announce that Shannon Andrews has accepted the position of Deputy Village Manager with the Village of Lakewood. Shannon brings ten years of municipal experience as Assistant Village Manger at Lake in the Hills to this position. We know that Shannon will help us move a number of strategic initiatives forward. She began her duties on February 28, and I hope that you will join me in welcoming her to our community.

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CROSSPOINT LUTHEREN CHURCH

CROSSPOINT IS SPONSORING AN EASTER EGG HUNT ON APRIL 13 AT 11:30 A.M. EVERYONE IS INVITED!

EASTER WORSHIP
SUNDAY, APRIL 20
8:30 AM AND 10 AM

THERE IS ALSO A WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 26 FROM 9-4

Holiday Schedules

Memorial Day
Village Hall Closed:
Monday, May 26

Yardwaste, Trash and Recycling Pickup:
Saturday, May 31

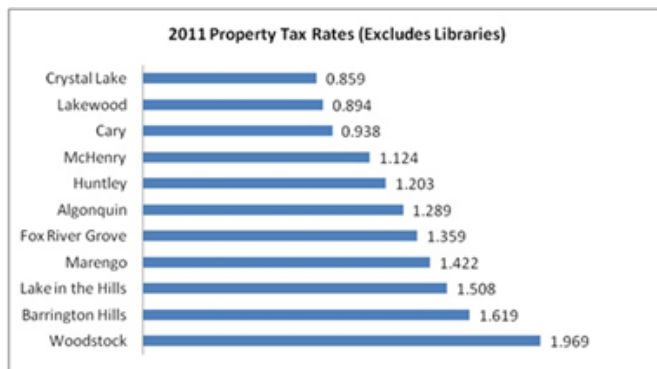
Police and Fire Departments are on duty 24 hours a day

Finances

The single most important function of elected officials is fiduciary oversight, and we take that responsibility very seriously. Therefore, I could not be more pleased to report that Standard & Poor’s recently reaffirmed the Village of Lakewood’s long-term AAA Bond Rating. Within its rationale, Standard & Poor’s states the following: Lakewood’s economy is strong; the Village’s budgetary flexibility is very strong and the budgetary performance is strong; and management conditions are strong with good financial practices. This achievement is important to the Village of Lakewood for several reasons, the most important of which is it will lower the borrowing costs of any future debt obligations.

Staff is in the midst of preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015 (which begins on May 1). As in the past, we are committed to providing critical infrastructure improvements in the most cost effective manner possible and within a balanced budget.

At a recent State of the Community Luncheon, Crystal Lake Mayor Aaron Shepley presented a table that compares the property tax rates of municipalities in McHenry County. As it shows, the Village of Lakewood has the second lowest property tax rate in the area (only the City of Crystal Lake is lower). This is a remarkable feat, especially given the disparity in commercial businesses between the Village of Lakewood and other communities.



RedTail Golf Club

A dedicated group of residents has been working over the winter months to develop a formal business plan for RedTail Golf Club. The plan will have three primary components: strategies for increasing average revenue per round, strategies for decreasing costs, and creation of a plan for funding capital repairs and improvements. The plan is nearly complete and will be presented to the Board of Trustees within the next month or so. Thank you to Trustee Gene Furey for leading this effort.

Development

As the national economy continues to improve, we have seen a definite increase in residential building. And we continue to believe that construction of the new hospital in Huntley (which is supposed to break ground as soon as weather permits) provides an excellent opportunity to market our community to employees of the new facility.

The Village of Lakewood has also been supportive of the effort by the Crystal Lake Park District to purchase property at the southern intersection of RedTail Drive and Ackman Road for the eventual construction of a recreation center. The development of the site in this manner will bring activity to the area and help support existing businesses and, hopefully, spur interest from new businesses.

As always, I encourage you to contact me or any of our officials with questions regarding any of the projects highlighted in the newsletter or that you might read about elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Erin

Village President

REDTAIL GOLF CLUB NEWS

Family Golf at RedTail Golf Club

Saturdays and Sundays in 2014 after 5:30 p.m. play 9 holes of golf at RedTail from one of our new sets of family tee markers for \$10 per player including cart. Come out and enjoy the game in an affordable and relaxed atmosphere. All players who play must use the family tee markers.

Group Lessons for Ladies, Adults, and Seniors

Total cost for the group lesson is \$99. Lessons will cover equipment, etiquette, basic rules, pre-swing fundamentals, short game, and on course experiences.

Ladies 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Dates: April 28, May 5, 12, 19, and June 2

Seniors 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Dates: April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28

Co-ed Adults 5:00 a.m. – 6:15 a.m. or 6:30 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

Dates: April 30, May 7, 14, 21, 28

Custom Group Lessons

Have you ever wanted to take a group golf lesson, but you could not find one that fits your busy schedule? We have the answer for you! Get your friends and neighbors together and give us a call at 815-477-0055. We will schedule the lesson with you and your group for the low price of \$60 for each hour long session. What a great way to spend some time with your friends in the great outdoors experiencing and learning the great game of golf.

2014 Junior Golf and Junior Golf League

The 2014 junior golf schedule for clinic dates and times are up on our website, www.redtailgolf.com. New additions this year are afternoon programs, as well as the elite junior training program. Information and sign up forms for our 2014 Junior Golf League are also available on our website.

Tuesday Night Ladies Golf League

RedTail is host to a very non competitive Ladies 9-hole golf league that plays Tuesday nights. The league starts in May and plays into September. Attendance each week is not mandatory. If you are interested, please call Peggy at 847-207-2268.

Thursday Couples League

RedTail will once again be hosting a couple's golf league on Thursday nights. The first night of the league will be May 29th. The league tees off at 5:45 p.m. each week. You do not have to play every week. We send out an Evite every Monday, to see who is available to play on Thursday. Please call RedTail at 815-477-0055 for more information, or visit our website www.redtailgolf.com for more details.

Please call RedTail at 815-477-0055 if you are interested in signing up, or if you have any questions about the programs listed above.

PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

Third Annual Holiday Lights Recycling Program a Success

Our holiday lights recycling program is officially over for the 2013 holiday season. Thank you to everyone who utilized this service and helped in the recycling effort! We will kickoff the Fourth Annual Holiday Lights Recycling Program this fall. ***Although the program has ended, we will still accept any holiday lights that are dropped off at Village Hall during normal office hours.***

Right-of-Way Restoration Work

Restoration work on parkways damaged by snowplows and water main breaks will begin in late spring. Materials such as pulverized black dirt and hot mix asphalt need to be available before work can begin. This project will begin as soon as the weather permits.

Prepare for Flooding from Melting Snow

Northern Illinois has accumulated a significant amount of snow throughout this winter season. As temperatures rise above freezing and the ground is still frozen, this increases the risk of flooding. Precautions can be taken to prevent flooding near your home including:

- Ensure your sump pump is working properly. Now is also a good time to test backup sump pump batteries if you have one. Test your sump pump by pouring water into the pit.
- Check that sump pump discharge pipe outside of your home is not frozen, clogged or blocked.
- If you have downspout extension pipes, make sure they face away from the house.
- Check to make sure your gutters and downspout extension pipes are free of snow, ice or debris. Move snow on the ground away from your house. Provide a clear drainage path away from your home.
- Keep interior drains clear of debris.
- Clear street drains of snow, ice and debris.
- Repair leaking or cracked basement walls. Seal basement walls with waterproofing compounds.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel in your basement if you are susceptible to flooding.

Arbor Day 2014

The Village's fourteenth annual Arbor Day tree planting will be held on Friday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m. Location will be determined and posted on our website prior to April 25.

Keep Your Lawn Green and the Water Blue

Using too much fertilizer and other lawn care products can cause water pollution. The same rain that helps turn your lawn green also washes excess fertilizers, pesticides, and other pollutants into the nearest water body, turning the water green, or worse. To help prevent pollution, have your soil tested to determine how much fertilizer you really need and use lawn care products as instructed on the product labels. Less is always more when it comes to water quality.

Fertilizer is a pollutant when it is washed off lawns and gardens into streams, rivers and other bodies of water. Fertilizer consists of nutrients that help plants grow and reproduce. In the water these nutrients feed naturally occurring algae and can lead to massive algae blooms, particularly during the warm summer months. An algae bloom is an explosion in the algae population that turns the water green, shutting out sunlight needed by bottom-growing plants and leading to oxygen depletion that kills fish and other aquatic creatures. This season, try applying no more fertilizer than can actually be used by your lawn and the plants you are tending. ***Remember, the Village of Lakewood is a phosphorous free community!***

Tree Removal Permit Required

Spring is a time when many homeowners begin landscape projects. As a reminder, ***the removal of any tree taller than 20 feet or larger than 6 inches in diameter as measured 12 inches above the ground requires that a homeowner complete and submit a Tree Removal Permit request form to Village Hall.*** The tree removal permit may be issued if the tree is dead, dying or diseased; if it poses a threat of damage to property or personal injury to passers-by; if the tree is an inferior species and is negatively affecting the health of a superior species; if removal of the tree will avoid an economic hardship or a hardship of another nature on the property or residence; or if the removal of the tree is consistent with good forestry practices. There is no fee for a Tree Removal Permit.

Any resident not following this procedure is subject to a fine of ***\$500 per tree*** that is removed without a permit. ***This Ordinance is strictly enforced!*** Forms can be obtained on our website at www.village.lakewood.il.us or at Village Hall.

Packing Peanuts Recycling Information

Did you know that all packing peanuts are not the same? The standard colors that everyone remembers are white, pink and green, but packing peanuts come in various sizes, shapes and colors now. Packing peanuts take anywhere from 5 years to 500 years to decompose! All of them can be reused and recycled. To recycle packing peanuts, please place them in separate bags or boxes and then put them in the Styrofoam bins located at Village Hall or the Public Works Facility. All collected packing peanuts are given away at no charge to whomever needs them. Email ksantowski@village.lakewood.il.us with any recycling questions.

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

Burglary Prevention Tips

Here are some preventative measures that residents can take to help deter burglaries:

1. Place your home on the Police Department's Vacation House watch list by calling (815) 459-2151.
2. Install **and activate** any security system you may have. (Change alarm codes regularly, give key codes or alarm codes only to trusted friends or relatives.)
3. Install motion sensor lights in rear of home, especially if it backs up to a golf course or other dark areas.
4. Install and use timers on lights.
5. Install timers on radios/televisions or leave simply leave them on.
6. Cancel newspapers and mail while gone.
7. In winter, make sure driveways and sidewalks are cleared of snow while gone.
8. If you have expensive valuables (i.e. jewelry or coins) they should be kept in a locked safe or bank safety deposit box.
9. Talk to trusted neighbors and have them watch and check your home while you are out of town.
10. Use caution when notifying your cleaning and landscaping providers that you will be out of town.

Should you return home and discover you have been burglarized, please do not touch or go through anything. Leave the residence and call the police immediately.

Please remember if you see anything that doesn't seem right, call the Police Department when it is occurring; including suspicious vehicles and persons in your subdivision. We cannot be everywhere and we need your eyes and ears to keep Lakewood the safe community that it has always been.

Also, as spring is upon us, please make sure that you lock the vehicles that are left in your driveway or on the street. **Do not** leave anything of value in your vehicles as this will help reduce thefts from vehicles.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chief Howell at (815) 459-2151.

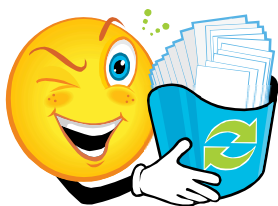
National Drug Take Back Event

On April 26, 2014, the Lakewood Police Department, in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), will coordinate a one day collaborative effort to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's homes. The "National Take-Back" initiative will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction.

Collection activities are planned from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Lakewood Police Department entrance, 2500 Lake Avenue, Village of Lakewood. Residents are encouraged to bring all unused or expired medications during this time. Controlled, non-controlled, and over-the-counter substances may be collected.

Liquid medications will not be accepted. Intravenous solutions, injectable and/or syringes will not be accepted due to potential hazard posed by blood borne pathogens. Illicit substances such as marijuana or methamphetamine are not a part of this initiative and should not be placed in collection containers.

Please see our website <http://www.village.lakewood.il.us> for more information on this program.



Village Hall is a drop-off location for :

Old cellular phones to benefit Turning Point
Clean Styrofoam
Holiday Lights to be Recycled

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Erin Smith – (815) 356-8005

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

J. Carl Davis - (815) 459-2685

Gene Furey - (708) 373-0606

Jeff Iden - (815) 356-6070

Kenneth Santowski – (847) 910-2985

Gary Sexson II - (815) 356-9422

Bev Thomas - (815) 455-3321

VILLAGE MANAGER

Catherine J. Peterson (815) 459-3025

E-mail: peterson@village.lakewood.il.us

DEPUTY VILLAGE MANAGER

Shannon K. Andrews (815) 459-3025

E-mail: sandrews@village.lakewood.il.us

VILLAGE CLERK

Janice S. Hansen - (815) 459-3025

TREASURER

George Roach - (815) 459-3025

FIRE CHIEF

Ralph Webster - (815) 459-1797

GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT

Pat McDonagh - (815) 459-1589

POLICE CHIEF

Lawrence Howell - (815) 459-2151

REDTAIL GENERAL MANAGER

Chris Neuhart - (815) 477-0055

REMINDERS

- Village Vehicle Sticker applications were mailed with your February or March Utility Bill. New stickers must be **displayed** on your vehicle no later than April 30 or you are subject to a citation.
- Weekly yardwaste pickup will resume on April 4 and continue through December 5, 2014.
- Irrigation systems must be tested annually at the start of the season. See information below for Village requirements.
- Replace batteries in smoke alarms when you switch your clocks at daylight savings time.

Summer Employment

Want to earn some money over summer break? The Public Works Department is soliciting applications for several summer maintenance worker positions. These positions include a wide variety of manual labor duties that involve maintaining and repairing Village facilities and property. Please visit the Village’s website at www.village.lakewood.il.us and click on Employment Opportunities for more details.

Spring Irrigation Start-up

With spring quickly approaching, lawn maintenance will be occupying more of our time. For those with lawn irrigation (sprinkler) systems, it will soon be time to place them into service. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois State Plumbing Code and the Village of Lakewood Municipal Code require that a reduced pressure zone (RPZ) device be installed on all irrigation systems. RPZ valves are required to be tested and certified that they are functioning properly prior to turning the system on for the first time each year. The testing and certification must be done by an Illinois State licensed plumber who is also certified as a cross connection control device inspector (CCCD-I). Many plumbing and irrigation contractors have personnel on staff that can do this for you. Once the testing has shown that the RPZ is found to be functioning properly, please provide a copy of the results to the Village’s Building Department. Should you have any questions, feel free to contact the Building Department at (815) 459-4671.

Codes You Should Know.....

11.04 Vegetation Control

The purpose of Section 11.04 of the Municipal Code is to insure that standards for the maintenance of lawns, yards and parcels of land in the Village are met; to prevent unsightly and dangerous landscape conditions; to encourage the neat and orderly maintenance of property; and to provide for a system of abatement should any provision of the Section be violated. It shall be unlawful for any owner of any property in the Village to refuse or neglect to cut weeds or grass as follows:

1. On improved real estate, weeds and grass shall not exceed 6 inches in height;
2. On unimproved real estate (i.e. a vacant lot), weeds and grass shall not exceed 10 inches in height.

If you would like to register a complaint, please call Village Hall and provide the address and/or lot number of the property in question.

Village of Lakewood
2500 Lake Avenue
Village of Lakewood, IL 60014

Hours: 8:30 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.— Mon.— Fri.

Phone Numbers:

Emergency: -----	9-1-1
Village Hall: -----	(815) 459—3025
Fire (Non-Emergency): -----	(815) 459—1797
Police (Non-Emergency): -----	(815) 459—2151
Building Department: -----	(815) 459—4671
Public Works Department: -----	(815) 459—3025
MDC Environmental Services: -----	(815) 568—7274
Village Hall Fax: -----	(815) 459—3156
E-mail: -----	info@village.lakewood.il.us