



The Lakewood Newsletter

From the President

Dear Neighbors:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we want to extend our very best wishes for a joyous holiday season to each of you and your families.



It is a busy time for all, so I will purposefully keep my remarks brief. However, there are a number of important issues that I want to highlight.

Finances

As this article is being written, there remains a stalemate in Springfield. The State continues to operate without a budget, which has placed a tremendous burden on many vendors and not-for-profit organizations. Units of local government have also been negatively impacted as the state had chosen to withhold the local portion of revenues from Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) and video gaming. The Village of Lakewood does not utilize MFT revenues for operations (i.e. purchase of salt or snow plow efforts), nor are any capital roadway projects undertaken in anticipation of the receipt of MFT funds. In other words, we budget only what we have set aside. As this newsletter was about to be sent to the printer, the Village received notice that these funds are being restored.

The long term, conservative approach to budgeting that the Village of Lakewood has taken over the past decade continues to serve us well in these uncertain economic times. This is especially evident by the recent action taken by the Board of Trustees to forego the increase available in the property tax levy and keep the revenues “flat” except to capture new growth. As we begin to prepare for the start of the budget process after the New Year, please know that we will continue to strive to provide the highest quality services in the most efficient and cost effective manner possible in order to limit the property tax liability to our residents.

Fire Department

At our second meeting in November, the Board of Trustees faced a difficult decision about the provision of fire/rescue and paramedic services to our residents. For decades, these services had been provided by the Crystal Lake Fire Department (CLFD). Five years ago, however, the Woodstock Fire Rescue District (WFRD) stepped forward to provide these services to our residents. Both organizations are professional and more than capable of providing excellent services to our residents. For me, the primary differentiation between the contracts was the long term funding of capital expenditures. Under the WFRD contract, the Village would continue to bear the full burden of any future capital expenditures, while the CLFD contract eliminates exposure to these costs. The Board of Trustees was divided on this issue, but the majority voted to return to the CLFD effective January 1, 2016. A copy of both proposals can be found within the November 24, 2015 packet materials on the website.

We sincerely thank the men and women of the Woodstock Fire Rescue District for their outstanding support and efforts during these past five years.

Winter 2015

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Holiday Schedules

Christmas Eve
Village Hall Closed at Noon
Thursday, December 24

Christmas Day
Village Hall Closed:
Friday, December 25

Trash and Recycling Pickup:
Saturday, December 26

New Year's Eve.
Village Hall Closed at Noon
Thursday, December 31

New Year's Day.
Village Hall Closed:
Friday, January 1

Trash and Recycling Pickup:
Saturday, January 2

Village Board Meetings
January, February and March 2016
Held at Turnberry Country Club
(See back page for details)

Police and Fire Departments are on duty 24 hours a day

Special Service Area #1 and #8

Twenty five years ago, a group of residents approached the Village of Lakewood with a request to create a Special Service Area (SSA) to provide for the long term maintenance and care of the Turnberry Lakes. SSA #1 was formed in response to this request, and it has provided a reliable source of revenue for the provision of these services to the Turnberry Lakes. With SSA #1 expiring this year, many hours were spent researching options for how best to fund and continue providing these services in order to preserve the natural beauty and character of the Turnberry Lakes. After numerous neighborhood meetings, residents came to a consensus to once again ask the Board of Trustees to create an SSA for the care and maintenance of the Turnberry Lakes. This lengthy process was finalized on November 24 with the creation of SSA #8, which will remain in effect for fifty years. The process was an excellent example of a public private partnership, and we thank all of the residents of the neighborhood for their input and exhaustive efforts to bring about this resolution.

East Side Sanitary Sewer System

During the past year, we have been reporting on the status of the East Side Sanitary Sewer System project that will allow treatment to occur at our wastewater treatment plant on Haligus Road. In August of this year, two bids were received for the construction of this project. The bids ranged from a low of \$3,295,758 to a high of \$4,041,821. These figures were substantially more than the Engineer's Estimate of \$2,400,000. Input from contractors resulted in several technical modifications to the plans (most notably moving the lift station further west to reduce the depth of the sewer mains) and a revised timeframe to allow the work to begin in the winter.

With these changes, I am pleased to report that six bids were received, with the low bid being from Merryman Excavation at a cost of \$2,117,787. The Board of Trustees formally awarded the bid at the December 8 meeting, and the project is expected to begin early in 2016. Detailed information will be mailed to residents impacted by the project as soon as a timeline is finalized. Once the project begins, regular updates will be posted on the Village's website.

2015 Roadway Program

The 2015 Roadway Program, which included repaving and adding bicycle lanes to Lake Avenue (from Huntley Road to the western corporate limits) and Lakewood Road has now been substantially completed. The overall cost of the project was \$1,879,500. However, the Village was responsible for only 20% of the cost as the remaining 80% was paid for with federal highway funds. In 2017, Lake Avenue (from Huntley Road to the eastern corporate limits) will be repaved and bicycle lanes added. This project will also be paid for with 80% federal highway funds and 20% local funds.

We extend a thank you to all of the residents and motorists inconvenienced by these projects for your patience throughout the past several months!

While the quarterly newsletter is an important communication tool with our residents, it can not provide the most up-to-date information. In an attempt to address this issue, we have started to post our entire Board packet to our website in advance of each meeting, and I encourage you to read it regularly to gain an understanding of all the actions necessary to maintain our quality life in the Village of Lakewood. As always, please 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

McHenry County Green Guide

It is our best source for all things "green". Over the past decade, McHenry County government has used the Green Guide as a source to help the County reduce its foot print on the environment.

You can visit their website at: www.mchenry.edu/green



Village of Lakewood's Little Free Library is Open!



Carol Heisler and four members of the Crystal Lake Kiwanis Club joined Trustee Bev Thomas and Police Chief Leigh Rawson in the Village Hall Parking lot on November 25 for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of Lakewood's new Little Free Library.

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. Located in 80 nations, Kiwanis help their communities in countless ways, as each community's needs are different. By working together, members achieve what one person cannot accomplish alone. When you give a child the chance to learn, experience, dream, grow, succeed and thrive, great things happen.

The Kiwanis Club of Crystal Lake introduced the Village to the Little Free Library movement that is growing in popularity world wide. The Little Free Library, created in 2009, introduced the concept of "take a book, leave a book". The original construction was a model of a little red one-room schoolhouse. It was built by a resident of Hudson, Wisconsin as a tribute to his mother who was a former school teacher and loved to read. The concept of the Little Free Library has continued to help encourage the promotion of reading for children, literacy for adults and libraries around the world. As of January 2015, it was estimated that the total number of registered Little Free Libraries in the world was roughly 25,000 and growing.

During the initial planning phase, a request was made to the Kiwanis Club for Lakewood's Little Free Library to be able to have a unique design of its own versus the standard schoolhouse design used for other Little Free Libraries. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Lakewood Village Hall to have a unique design that compliments our beautiful lakeside location.

A contest was held among members of staff and a boat design was chosen which would resemble the unique design of a 1950's era Cris Craft wooden boat, such as the one depicted below.



Once the design was finalized, our Chief of Police, Leigh Rawson, volunteered to construct the Little Free Library. His efforts resulted in the creation of a one-of-a-kind, beautiful model of a wooden boat. It was installed by the Public Works staff in late Fall. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on November 25 with members of the Crystal Lake Kiwanis Club, Trustee Thomas and Chief Rawson in attendance. The Kiwanis Club was also kind enough to provide the Village with an ample supply of books for replenishment.

Please take some time to stop by and look at the beautiful addition to Village Hall and take advantage of the Little Free Library!



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Tuesday, March 15, 2016—General Primary

Tuesday, November 8, 2016 — General Election

For a complete Election Calendar and Candidates Guide, please visit the Illinois State Board of Election Website: www.elections.state.il.us



POLICE NEWS

Winter Home Security

The Police Department encourages you to remember these important tips on how to keep your home and vehicles secure this winter season:

- Close and lock all doors and windows for your home and cars. Most unlawful entries are made through unlocked doors.
- If traveling, please avoid the temptation to advertise your travel plans on social media; make arrangements for your mail and newspapers; and consider contacting the Police Department to be added to the vacation House Watch list. Finally, if possible, leave a car in the driveway.
- Keep trees and shrubbery from growing over windows or blocking the view of doors.



- Use lights, inside and out, and consider timers and motion sensors, as most burglars will not attempt to enter a home if there is an indication of people inside.

Hopefully, with these simple precautions, we can keep our neighborhoods safe from intruders. And, as always, if you see any suspicious people or vehicles, please call 9-1-1 and report them immediately.

National Drug Take Back: Drop Off Program

The Village of Lakewood has recently been approved as a drop-off site for pharmaceutical disposal. This program is based on availability and we are currently awaiting receipt of our disposal equipment. Please watch our website or Spring Newsletter for further details regarding when the program will be available for use by our residents.

Shop With a Cop a Success! *Thank You for Your Service!*

On Sunday, December 6, two members of the Lakewood Police Department, Sergeant Roth and Officer Kapsalis, volunteered their time to participate in the Shop with a Cop Program organized by McHenry County Police Charities. This program promotes a positive relationship between children and law enforcement, and allows underprivileged kids an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for their families.

For more information on this great event, please visit:
www.mchenrycountypolicecharities.org.



Beware of Scams

Unfortunately, this time of year is the prime opportunity for fraud through email or phone scams. Please be aware that these scams can involve the receipt of emails or phone calls from someone claiming to be a family member or friend in desperate need of money. If you find yourself in this situation, please consider using the following tips:

- Resist the urge to act immediately, no matter how dramatic the story.
- Verify the person's identity by asking questions that a stranger couldn't possibly answer.
- Call a phone number for your family member or friend that you know to be genuine.
- Check the story out with someone else in your family or circle of friends, even if you've been told to keep it a secret.
- Don't wire money or send a check or money order by overnight delivery or courier.

EMERGENCY PERSONNEL NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE ESPECIALLY DURING HEAVY SNOWFALL. "ADOPT" YOUR NEAREST FIRE HYDRANT BY CLEANING THE SNOW FROM AROUND THE HYDRANT.

Winter Fire Safety

1. **Layer up!** Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm. Gloves and a hat will help prevent losing your body heat.
2. **Don't forget your furry friends.** Bring pets indoors. If they can't come inside, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they have access to water that is not frozen.
3. **Remember the three feet rule.** If you are using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface and keep anything flammable, such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs, at least three feet away.
4. **Requires supervision** – Turn off space heaters and make sure fireplace embers are out before leaving the room or going to bed.
5. **Don't catch fire!** If you are using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
6. **Protect your pipes.** Run water, even at a trickle, to help prevent your pipes from freezing. Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals out of the reach of children. Keep the garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.
7. **Better safe than sorry.** Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night. Your heating bill may be a little higher, but you could avoid a more costly repair job if your pipes freeze and burst.
8. **The kitchen is for cooking.** Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.
9. **Use generators outside.** Never operate a generator inside the home, including in the basement or garage.
10. **Knowledge is power.** Don't hook a generator up to the home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.



REDTAIL GOLF CLUB

Pro Shop Merchandise

A great selection of merchandise is still available in the Pro Shop. Golf Shirts are currently on sale for 35% off, buy three and get 55% off. Hundreds of shirts are still in stock! We also have ladies apparel for 40% off, and footwear available at the lowest prices of the season. And, as always, all hats are on sale for \$16.99.

2016 Memberships

RedTail Golf Club is offering memberships for the 2016 Season. Special programs are available for seniors and juniors. Weekday membership programs now include weekend privileges after 1:00 p.m.



2016 Golf Outings

RedTail Golf Club is now booking golf outings for the 2016 season. Many great dates are still available. Whether you need an outing for 144 players or a group of 20, the RedTail Golf Club staff will be happy to service your every event need.

Event Planning

Five Reasons Why Your Next Event Needs to be at RedTail Golf Club:

1. Fantastic Golf Course that Appeals to All Levels of Players
2. Excellent Playing Conditions
3. Full Service, Fully Stocked Golf Shop
4. Affordable Event Packages
5. Our Professional Management Staff Takes Care of All the Details

Please visit our website at: www.redtailgolf.com or call (815) 477-0055 for more information

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Winter Operations



In cooperation with the Police Department, Public Works will decide when to begin snow or ice control operations based on the icy conditions on streets, which seriously affect travel. In addition, the depth and time of snow accumulation, along with the volume of traffic, will dictate when plowing operations will begin.

During each snow event, we keep our equipment in the very best operational condition and work quickly to clear the roads, making them safe for travel. Here are a few steps that you can take to help keep the Village's streets safe and enhance our snow plowing operations:

ROCK ENCROACHMENTS IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY must be set back at least 10 feet from the street between October 1 and March 31. The Public Works Department is authorized to remove all non-compliant encroachments without notice since they present a hazard for which you would ultimately be liable.

PARKING AFTER A SNOWFALL

According to Chapter 15.11 of the Municipal Code, it is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to park or cause to be parked any vehicle on any public street within the corporate limits of the Village at any time after a snowfall of two inches or more has occurred, unless said

public street has been cleared of snow and snow removal operations have been completed.

Be sure to park your vehicle off of the street when it starts to snow. This prevents the car from being plowed in, or from receiving a ticket and being towed.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING CONTAINERS

should be promptly removed after pick up from the roadside as soon as possible in order to avoid contact with snowplows.

CHILDREN need to be reminded to stay clear of snowplows. These large trucks are unable to stop quickly and snow thrown from their blades often contains pieces of ice and debris.

DRIVEWAY snow cleared by residents needs to be piled along the right side as you face the road. It is hazardous to shovel, plow or blow snow on any public street. This may cause ice patches which are hazardous to drivers and may damage snowplows.

FIRE HYDRANTS located near your home need to be kept free from snow and visible on all sides. You can help the Fire Department by clearing snow around the hydrant so it is accessible on all sides in the event of an emergency. It is there for your protection and that of your neighbors.

Be aware that you will get snow in your driveway! It is a snow removal fact, especially in cul-de-sacs. The Public Works Department strives to minimize this problem, but sometimes it is unavoidable.

To report snow plow damage, call Village Hall at (815) 459-3025 or send an email to info@village.lakewood.il.us.

Mailbox Damage Policy

Mailboxes and posts that are properly installed and are not rotting should not suffer any damage under normal snowplowing conditions. We suggest that you inspect and, if necessary, repair any mailboxes and/or posts which are in poor condition and are not properly installed or securely fastened, or that have set-backs which do not conform to the U.S. Postal Service requirements. A copy of these installation specifications can be obtained at Village Hall.

Despite the efforts of our Public Works snow plow operators, mailbox damage occurs occasionally. It is the policy of the Village of Lakewood to pay damage claims or make physical repairs to only those mailboxes and/or

posts that have been **directly hit** by a snowplow blade or some portion of the plow truck.

The Village is not liable for damage to boxes and/or posts that are unable to withstand the force of plowed snow. A mailbox hit by a plow will look demolished or have a clear indication of being struck by a plow blade.



Watermain Breaks

It's that time of year again . . . when the outdoor temperature drops below freezing. Each year the freezing and thawing temperatures can cause water main breaks.

If you should see water coming out of the ground, or notice that something else might be happening with regard to water main breaks, please call the following numbers for assistance:

Weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (815) 459-3025
After hours, holidays, and weekends (815) 459-2151

At times, it may become necessary to shut off water service to homes in order to repair a water main break. When possible, residents are notified prior to having their water turned off. The Public Works Department will work around the clock to repair the break and get your water back in service.

Proceed with caution in areas around a water main break. Be alert for ice on the roadway. If icy conditions exist, please call the phone numbers listed above. Often excavation is required to repair the water main break. If you have an excavated area near your home, do not attempt to fill in the site. The repair crew will leave the site in a safe manner and will return to repair the area in the spring when the ground has thawed.



Winter Stormwater Tips

As we enter the snowy season, residents should be mindful of snow removal options. Traditional deicing methods, such as laying down road salts to melt snow and ice from sidewalks and driveways, are linked to increased chloride concentrations in waterways.

Road salts are carried into storm drains and streams via stormwater runoff. Once in waterways, these chlorides never fully dissipate and can be harmful for aquatic life at high levels.

Residents are encouraged to utilize best management practices for snow and ice removal during the winter months. Removing snow prior to applying a deicer, applying just enough to reduce hazard, and sweeping up and properly storing road salt after a storm for reuse are all ways to reduce the levels of chlorides in our waterways this winter.

Alternative treatments, such as a beet juice derivative, applied before storms are also effective in decreasing the need for road salts by minimizing the formation of ice.

Remember:



- Remove snow prior to applying a deicer.
- Use just enough deicer to reduce hazard.
- Sweep up and properly store road salt after a snow storm for reuse.
- Use less than four pounds of salt per 1,000 square feet. More salt does not equal more melting.
- Use alternative methods, such as beet juice derivative, to minimize the formation of ice.

Building Inspections

The Village of Lakewood's Building Inspector will be available to perform building inspections Mondays between 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and Tuesdays through Fridays between 9:00 a.m. and Noon. Concrete pre-pour inspections may request specific appointment times; all other inspections are conducted within the time frames listed above.

In addition, the Building Inspector will hold regular office hours to answer resident and contractor questions daily, Monday through Friday from Noon to 1:00 p.m.



Secretary of State Stops Mailing Vehicle Registration Reminders

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that his office will immediately suspend mailing out vehicle registration renewal reminders to the public due to the lack of a state budget.

Those who want to continue receiving a reminder must sign up to receive electronic notices through the Secretary of State's web site www.cyberdriveillinois.com. To sign up, you will need your Registration ID and Pin found on your current registration card. If you do not have a

current registration card, please call the Public Inquiry Division at (800) 252-8980 to obtain your registration ID and PIN number.

While those who receive emailed vehicle registration renewal notices will continue to have access to a pin number needed to renew their sticker online, those who do not sign up for the electronic alerts will now have to renew their vehicle stickers in person at a Secretary of State office.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

Reminder that the Village Board Meetings for December of 2015 through March of 2016 will be held at Turnberry Country Club, 9600 Turnberry Trail.



VILLAGE OF LAKEWOOD

2500 Lake Avenue
Village of Lakewood, IL 60014
Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Mon -Fri

info@village.lakewood.il.us

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

Paul Serwatka—(312) 388-8000

Bev Thomas—(815) 455-3321

VILLAGE MANAGER

Catherine J. Peterson - (815) 459-3025

peterson@village.lakewood.il.us

DEPUTY VILLAGE MANAGER

Shannon Andrews—(815) 459-3025

VILLAGE CLERK

Janice S. Hansen - (815) 459-3025

TREASURER

George Roach - (815) 459-3025

FIRE CHIEF

Ralph Webster - (815) 459-1797

POLICE CHIEF

Leigh Rawson - (815) 459-2151

REDTAIL GENERAL MANAGER

Chris Neuhart - (815) 477-0055

Christmas Tree Pickup

Trees will be picked up by MDC Environmental Services on Friday, January 8 and Friday, January 22. Please note that your tree may not be picked up on the first date due to the heavy volume and available space in the trucks. Trees may be tied or placed in plastic bags.

Christmas Tree Drop Off

Trees will also be accepted for drop off at the following locations between December 26 and January 15:

- Ringwood Road District: Glacial Park, first parking area off of Harts Road
- Harvard: Twin Oaks parking area at Rush Creek
- Algonquin Township: 3702 Route 14, Crystal Lake (Residents only)

Holiday Lights Recycling

Don't throw away your tangled, frayed or burned-out holiday lights this year! In support of the Village's strategic plan goal to be green, mindful, and sustainable, the Village will offer recycling of holiday lights and extension cords. A receptacle is available at Village Hall through January 31, 2015.



Acceptable Items are: Mini-lights (also known as Italian lights), C7 Lights, C9 Lights, Rope Lights, LED Lights and Extension Cords. Special thanks to Elgin Recycling for partnering with the Village to promote sustainability in the community.

Attention Snowbirds

The 2016 vehicle sticker application will be mailed with your February or March utility bill. In order to accommodate snowbirds and allow vehicle stickers to be purchased by the April 30 deadline, we will gladly send your utility bill to your winter address.



Simply call Village Hall or drop us a note with your winter mailing address and the date you plan to return to the Village of Lakewood. If you have any questions, please contact Village Hall at (815) 459-3025.