

Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

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Fourth Quarter 2003

Well another year has already come and gone. We hope that everyone had a very happy holiday season and hope that 2004 is a good one for you and your family.

2004 promises to be a year when the village makes great progress toward improving facilities, services and community development projects that will enhance the downtown streetscape, the recreational area and improve the way residents can get relevant and necessary information from our office.

Here are the notes and news from the Village Hall.

Fourth of July Celebration: We have had several calls about the 2004 Independence Day celebration so I would like to clarify something here. Since the 4th of July falls on a Sunday this year, **the fireworks will be held on the evening of Friday, July 2nd along with the festivities in the park. The parade will be at 9:30 on the morning of Saturday, July 3rd along with regular activities normally held on the 4th.** Sunday is the Lake Linden-Hubbell High School All-School reunion. Please let your friends and relatives who will be visiting our town know of these changes.

Hecla St. Extension: As you may already know the Hecla Street extension out to M-26 has been completed and is open to traffic. It has greatly increased the efficiency with which traffic comes into town via Calumet and looks to be well worth the investment. A streetlight will soon be added on Hecla and D Street for added convenience.

Spring clean-up: I have received several calls regarding a clean-up of household items this spring. At this point there are no plans to do this but there are several ways currently available to take advantage of village services. First, we have the 5-dollar stickers that can be placed on large items (excl. tires, refrigerators, batteries or air conditioners). If you have several small items, place them in a large box with a sticker and they will be picked up. We also have dumpster rentals which are \$35.00. It will be delivered on any Tuesday. You can then fill it during the week with anything except the previously mentioned exclusions, and it will be picked up the following Tuesday. You will be billed for it later. **You cannot rent a dumpster if you are delinquent on your water bill.**

Finance: As everyone knows the State has been wrestling with a budget crisis which has been most visible locally at Michigan Tech and in Houghton-Hancock. Our village was also hit hard by the recent revenue-sharing cuts which were in addition to revenue-sharing cuts from last year. At this point no village services are scheduled to be scaled back and no rates or fees will increase, but an eye must be closely kept on excess spending during this fiscal year.

Community Planning: In January, Pat Coleman from U.P. Engineers and Architects will present his community development recommendations to the Village Council and the DDA. Soon afterward, a series of public hearings will be held for community input and involvement to formulate a final plan. It is important that residents show up to share your ideas. These hearings will be posted in the newspaper and at businesses in town so look for them coming soon.

Public Safety: As you may already know, Dave Outinen has resigned from his position as Police Chief after nearly 10 years of service. We wish him well in his future endeavors. Applications have been taken for a new chief and interviews and recommendations will be conducted by the Public Safety committee for final council approval in the coming weeks.

The Village Council has also approved an agreement to allow the Bootjack First Responders to answer emergency calls within the village. Their expertise will be a welcome addition to emergency services already provided to residents of the village.

Village Web Site: In the recent past the village website has had problems with open postings and was forced to deactivate to avoid further problems. This year we hope to revamp and restore the website and add many new features to enhance communication between the village and its residents. Meeting minutes, announcements, the ordinance manual and Q & A sections will be actively updated and maintained throughout the year. These improvements will hopefully be ready by spring.

Buildings & Parks: Our village campground will be open for Memorial Day weekend. The weekend of the 4th of July is already full. Please call the clerk's office if you want to be placed on the waiting list for cancellations. As of this date the cost for a campsite is \$15.00 per night.

On Saturday, February 21st the Michigan Tech 2004 Mini Baha will take place at the Ice Rink in the park. Teams from 5 or 6 universities will compete with dune buggys over a short oval track. Notices of the event will be posted in advance as details become available. Please come out to support the event.

Work is still progressing on the golf course project. Revitalization and expansion of the lagoon system for the wastewater treatment facility on the sands is the current subject of study and debate with an eye towards possibly incorporating improvements into the golf course construction.

The ice rink in the park will be open beginning on Friday, January 9th from 6:30 until 8:00 pm. Regular nights will be Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 6:30 to 8:00pm and open to the public. If you can, please volunteer at the rink as we are usually short on volunteers. More hours and nights are possible if we get enough volunteers.

ORDINANCE AWARENESS

Since some residents have requested information contained in this ordinance we are running it again in this issue.

When space in this letter permits we will include village ordinances for residents to review. These are only brief summaries of the ordinances. Full text is available for review at the clerk's office.

Ordinance Series 4000; Chapter 4010: Placing of ice, snow or other material in the street.

No person in the village shall remove snow, ice or other material from their property and pile it within the lines of any village right-of-way except as follows.

Snow and ice may be piled on the street, but only parallel with and as a part of the bank formed by the village plowing. Snow may be piled in front of property owned or occupied by the resident adjacent to the path or driveway. Said snow may not extend more than 2 ½ feet into the roadway beyond the existing bank. **Piling and/or hauling snow across the right-of-way is prohibited.**

Snow, ice or other material moved, piled or dumped in violation of this ordinance may be moved by the village with expense of removal charged to the person responsible.

In the event that any citizen of this village shall suffer any undue hardship as a result of the provisions of this ordinance, exception may be obtained with prior approval of the Street Commissioner.

ADOPTED: April 10th, 1975.

James Aittama, Village President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk