

Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

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First Quarter 2004

Well, it finally seems as though winter is releasing its grip and we are moving into the spring and summer seasons. As the warmer weather approaches continued improvement projects in the park, on the village water system and on the aging storm-sewer system are upcoming. Also, the possibility of some very big news on major recreation and beautification projects makes this spring a very exciting one.

Here are the notes and news from the Village Hall.

Fourth of July Celebration Reminder: Just another update on the 2004 Independence Day celebration. **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 reserved for 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.

Sidewalks: The Village has had a long-standing sidewalk replacement program for village residents. The program is that the village crew will form and prepare the sidewalk for concrete and the resident pays the cost of the concrete. This does not include new sidewalk installation. These projects are done as time permits for the crew. There is a sign-up list at the village hall for interested residents.

Spring clean-up: The spring clean-up dates for this year are Monday, April 26; Monday, May 10; and Monday, May 24. These clean-ups are only for leaves and brush. Just rake the leaves into piles or, if necessary, place in biodegradable bags. Other items will not be picked up. Dumpsters can be rented and \$5.00 stickers are available at the village hall for other items and garbage.

Water: The Torch Lake Sewage Authority has approved a rate increase in sewage charges that will be reflected on your May 1st water bills. **This is not a village water rate increase.** Village water rates will remain the same. The sewer rate increase is outlined below:

	<u>Old rate</u>	<u>New rate</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Base fee(minimum up to 3000 gal.):	\$8.25	\$11.00	+ \$2.75
Per 1000 gal. charge after 3000	\$2.45	\$3.00	+.65/1000
Surcharge (debt retirement)	\$10.00	\$10.00	-----

<u>Current minimum bill</u>	<u>New minimum bill</u>	<u>Old bill for 6000gal. (average)</u>	<u>New bill for 6000 gal.</u>
Water.....\$28.00	Water.....\$28.00	Water.....\$33.90	Water.....\$33.90
Sewer.....\$8.25	Sewer.....\$11.00	Sewer.....\$15.60	Sewer.....\$20.00
Surcharge.....\$10.00	Surcharge.....\$10.00	Surcharge.....\$10.00	Surcharge.....\$10.00
\$46.25	\$49.00	\$59.50	\$63.90

As you can see the minimum bill will increase by \$2.75 and the bill for a 6000 gal. consumption, just about average, will increase by \$4.40. For your information, the surcharge is the amount of the debt retirement from the sewage treatment facility construction. All village rates and fees will remain unchanged. Those rates are currently a minimum of \$28.00 up to 4000 gal., \$2.95 per 1000 gal. after 4000, and a \$30.00 charge for water turn-ons and turn-offs.

Community Planning: On April 22nd, Pat Coleman from U.P. Engineers and Architects will present to the DDA his findings on the community development plan and have some options for financing those improvements. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at the village hall and all are welcome to attend.

Public Safety: As you may already know, the village's new police chief is Marjorie Marshall. Her bio was in a front-page Daily Mining Gazette story a few weeks ago. She has been introducing herself to business owners and residents so if you haven't met her yet you soon will.

As you may also have heard, after many hurdles and reams of paperwork, we have been approved for a United States Dept. of Agriculture- Rural Development loan/grant for a new fire truck. The agreement is for a total of \$142,000 and includes a grant for \$46,000, a low interest loan for \$73,500 and an up-front payment of \$22,500, a portion of which is being paid by the Lake Linden Volunteer Fire Department. The Fire Dept. is currently raffling off a brand new Arctic Cat Four-wheeler, the proceeds of which will go towards the purchase of the truck. The drawing will be during the Independence Day weekend. The vendor has told us every effort will be made to have the fire truck constructed in time for the 4th of July but admits that may not be feasible.

Buildings & Parks: Our village campground will be open for Memorial Day weekend on May 28th.

Linden Dunes: Progress continues in gathering vital data on the proposed Lake Linden golf course. Construction bids have now been received from four contractors each having extensive golf course experience. Evaluation is currently being done to ensure that each bid accurately interpreted the course specifications as defined by the architect. Final discussions have been held with PriceWaterhouseCoopers on the financial analysis and feasibility report. The report should be received by the village shortly. Discussions are now beginning with funding avenues to explore and options available to the village. Decisions on the viability of the course, and the benefits to the village should be outlined within the coming month. At that time a public meeting will be held to discuss options and identify the appropriate avenue for the village to support.

Boating Regatta: Lake Linden is blessed with a wonderful shoreline on Torch Lake having direct access to Lake Superior. Several docks have been constructed on village property near the park, campground areas have been expanded and improved, and many residents in the region take advantage of Lake Linden's special water resources. To celebrate this summer boating season the Village Council is considering sponsoring a "regatta" at the docks in the park. Food and drink would be available, music will be presented, and area residents will be invited to join local boaters and residents to celebrate the uniqueness of the village facilities. Preliminary thoughts are to hold the regatta two weekends after July 4th. Boaters would be encouraged to visit, enjoy the food and drink, and enhance the fellowship between area residents and display their crafts. More on this idea as the summer advances.

ORDINANCE AWARENESS

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. There will be a specific emphasis on enforcing the following ordinance this summer, along with a new and more strict noise ordinance that is currently being implemented.

Ordinance Series 9000; Chapter 9048 Amended: Unsafe Buildings and Structures

Dangerous building means: a) a door, aisle or stairway that does not conform to fire code, b) a building damaged by weather so it does not meet minimum requirements of Act 167 Housing Law of Michigan, c) part of the building is likely to collapse, d) building is an "attractive nuisance" to children who might play in the building, e) building is unfit for human habitation, f) building is exposed to the elements.

If a building meets any of the preceding provisions, a notice will be issued by certified mail to the owner. The notice will contain the time and place for a hearing to determine that the building is unsafe and the owner shall have an opportunity to show cause for not having action taken. (The ordinance outlines the procedures for appointing a hearing officer, testimony, decision and enforcement order by the officer. It also outlines an appeal process.)

As a remedy for making a dangerous structure conform with this ordinance, the Village Council may, at its discretion, contract for demolition or make the structure safe by other means such as renovating or maintaining the building. Either of these remedies will be at the expense of the property owner. Unpaid costs will result in a lien being placed on the property affected.

In addition to the above remedies, a civil infraction subject to a \$500.00 fine and costs can be levied if the order of the hearing officer is not followed. Each day constitutes a separate violation.

James M. Aittama, Village President

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