

# Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

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## Fourth Quarter 2004

I hope everyone had a very Happy Holidays and I also hope that all those who wished for a white Christmas are proud of themselves. We certainly had a white Christmas and will have a white New Years Day, a white Valentine's Day, and a white St. Patrick's Day as well. We have had a very busy last quarter and are looking forward to a 2005 full of positive changes.

**Village Council vacancy:** As you may or may not know, Steve Pummill, a Trustee on the Village Council for the last few years has submitted his resignation effective at the end of 2004. We would like to thank him for his service to the community and for his chairmanship of the DDA for those years as well.

His departure leaves a vacancy on the Village Council that must be filled. If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please call or stop by the clerk's office to let us know. The process for appointment is that the Village President recommends a person to the Council and they vote whether to accept or reject the appointment. The term runs until November of 2006. The Council would like to take action on this matter at the January 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting so please make your intentions known before then so the Council can be informed.

**New election dates:** Within the past six months, the State of Michigan passed new regulations reforming state election laws. As a result of this legislation village elections will now be held with the National General elections in even-numbered Novembers. Also, all village elections will now be non-partisan so a party preference will not be required to be placed on the ballot and primary elections will not be needed. Since the terms of duly-elected officers cannot, by law, be shortened, this will extend the current terms of all officers from March of 2006 (the previous election date) to November of 2006.

**New fire truck is here:** As most of you are aware by watching TV6 or reading the Daily Mining Gazette, the Village was finally able to close the deal on a new fire truck with Rural Development and Elite Power Products. The brand new 2004 Freightliner arrived on December 10<sup>th</sup> and was put into service that day. It replaced the 1972 Yellowbird GMC that had served well but was long past its prime. The cost of the truck was \$147,000 and was paid for with a \$46,000 grant, a down payment of \$27,500 shared by the village and the LLFD, and a long-term, low-interest loan of \$73,500 from the USDA. The village and Fire Dept. are continuing to look at grants and funding for another new vehicle since the second truck is still 30 years old and in need of upgrading.

**Ice rink to open:** The ice rink will be open soon and as always volunteers are needed. The more volunteers we have the more hours the rink can be open. Please contact the clerk's office if you would like to volunteer. A schedule and hours for the rink will be announced in school and in the paper.

**Calumet St Facelift:** Another major project, which is in its application phase, is the Streetscape and Park Renovation Project. U.P. Engineers and Architects was retained last year by the Lake Linden DDA and the village to plan park and streetscape improvements and come up with a design. There were public meetings for residents to voice their opinions and preferences and emphasis was placed on restoring a more historic feel to the downtown area and creating a centralized gathering place in the village park.

Specifically on the streetscape, the plan calls for new, historical light poles and a formalizing of the spacing and aligning between them. Also, bump-outs of the sidewalks at the corners (similar to Houghton's) on Calumet Street to allow for better visibility coming out of the side streets and making it easier for pedestrians to cross, and formalizing crosswalks with pavers at the corners. On the 100 block of Calumet Street a widening of the sidewalks and placing of trees along both sides will create a more attractive entrance to the village.

In the park, the area near Calumet Street will include a paved "town square" section and sidewalks. The town square area will include a permanent elevated stage structure and increased seating to allow for events such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Sidewalks out to Calumet Street and a mid-block crosswalk with pavers will formalize pedestrian traffic as well. The entire project, while creating a more appealing and historic-looking main street is also geared for increased traffic and pedestrian safety.

After several presentations at Village Council meetings and DDA meetings were given by Pat Coleman of UPEA, a final plan was developed with a cost estimate of approximately \$655,000 and the decision to find funding for the project was made. UPEA is currently applying for several grant opportunities which will pay for a vast majority of the project. If you would like to see the final plans for this project they are available in the village clerk's office during regular hours.

**French Canadian Christmas:** Those of you who participated in any of the activities of the French Canadian Christmas weekend know how great they were. Santa arrived on the Christmas train at the museum, Horse-drawn rides were given throughout the day and activities and drawings were held at the school, E-Center and local businesses. Our thanks to Lynn Kisul, Nancy Fisher and everyone else who helped in organizing the events of that weekend.

**Meeting postings:** Here are the regular Village Council meeting dates for 2005. They are on the second Thursday of each month throughout the year. January 13<sup>th</sup>, February 10<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, April 14<sup>th</sup>, May 12<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, July 14<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup>, September 8<sup>th</sup>, October 13<sup>th</sup>, November 10<sup>th</sup>, and December 8<sup>th</sup>.

**MTU Mini Baha:** The Michigan Tech Mini Baha will once again be held this year on February 19<sup>th</sup> in the parking lot at the village park near the pavilion. Last year there were teams from five colleges that had cars. This year they are inviting twice as many and hope to continue building on it each year. Look for ads and posters as the event draws nearer.

**Campground reservations:** 4<sup>th</sup> of July campground reservations will be accepted beginning when the office opens on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00am. No phone reservations will be answered and payment is required upon making the reservation on that morning. There will be no refunds for cancellations made for 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. Campsite requests will be based upon availability.

**Public Safety (Chief Marshall):** The overnight parking ban is in effect as of November 1<sup>st</sup> and will be in effect until April. Warnings will no longer be issued and vehicles will be cited.

Please remember to lock your vehicles, even if they are in your driveway. There has been an increase in vandalism lately and it just makes sense to do it. Why take a chance that someone could just walk by and open the doors when you could take this simple precaution.

Also remember that snowmobiles are subject to the same traffic laws and speed limits as cars. Please be careful if you are riding, especially on the corner of Calumet and 4<sup>th</sup> Sts. where the traffic is very busy at all times of the day.

#### **ORDINANCE AWARENESS**

The following ordinance was included in last year's newsletter but it has come to our attention that some people are still in violation, so it is being included again.

#### **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 10<sup>th</sup>, 1975.

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James M. Aittama, Village President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk