

Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

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Finally, after a long and snowy winter it seems as though spring may be right around the corner. With no major snowstorms in the forecast we can start looking forward to the warmer weather. And with the advent of spring comes a lot of anticipation at the village hall for some great things set to happen this year. Two major projects will give the downtown area a whole new look.

Lake Linden Streetscape Project: The streetscape revitalization plan started more than a year ago with three public meetings at the E-center and information solicited from village residents. That input was put together by U. P. Engineers and Architects into a preliminary streetscape plan and brought before the Village Council and the Downtown Development Authority for input, advice and options. Meetings with representatives from UPPCo regarding the utility poles and light fixtures and recommendations from MDOT and the professionals at UPEA resulted in a final project plan. This plan includes historic utility poles and light fixtures, stamped-concrete pedestrian crosswalks, a widened sidewalk in the 100 block of Calumet St. with trees planted along both sides, curb bumpouts at the corners to increase visibility when exiting side streets and to improve safety for pedestrians crossing Calumet St, corner landscape treatments, and a "town square" created near the highway in the park with a bandstand and centralized gathering spot along with new sidewalks and landscaped areas throughout the park.

The final plan was approved and UPEA, with the approval of the DDA Board and the Village Council submitted the information to MDOT for consideration of an Enhancement Grant (\$200,000) and to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for consideration of a Community Development Block Grant (\$350,000). Obviously, without both elements of the funding coming through the project could not move ahead.

As of the writing of this newsletter, The Village of Lake Linden has received one of ten Michigan Enhancement Grants given for this year in the amount of \$200,000 for the Streetscape Project. The second application (CDBG, \$350,000) will be announced with a round of funding on April 12th in Marquette and the engineers from UPEA are cautiously optimistic. Their reason for optimism is that the MDOT grant has already been approved and this is a big plus for our application.

If the MEDC Block Grant is funded this will obviously mean tremendous changes for the downtown district. We will, of course, publish this second round of funding as soon as possible after the April 12th announcement. If you want to see specifics on the application and the plan schematics please come by the clerk's office any time during business hours and I will be happy to explain them as best I can.

Village Hall Restoration: In February, we completed a grant application to the Americana Foundation for the restoration of the exterior of the Village Hall, which is in desperate need of repair. A four-phase project was detailed by Hitch Engineering to address the issues and renew the historic facades, most importantly the Calumet and 4th St sides. The project total was \$219,000. But the initial phase - cleaning, tuck-pointing, and sealing sandstone facades, and repairing some of the worst crumbling fascia, was \$44,000. I am pleased to report that the Americana Foundation has chosen to fund the entire \$44,000 first-phase of the project. There is no required match for the grant and the hope is that the Foundation, which has a track record of funding projects through several phases, will consider this project for future funding as well. Hitch is currently compiling a bid package for contractors and work is scheduled to begin as early as June to complete phase one this summer.

New American Legion Building: Another exciting project is underway in the Village, although this one is not a Village project. The Village and Post 90 are in the process of finalizing a land exchange agreement to swap the parking lot on the corner of 4th and Front St with a parcel owned by the Legion just outside of town. This will allow them to build their new Post/rental hall on their current site and down towards Front St. The new building will be a 7000 sq ft. post and hall available for events with up to 290 guests. It will be a tremendous addition to the Village and is scheduled for construction this summer, as well. Congratulations to the Legion and its members and we hope their project goes well.

Recreation Plan Development: Our 5-year recreation plan is expiring and we are in the process of gathering ideas for the next five years. The old plan was instrumental in getting several grant projects approved, such as the docks down at the marina and the nature trail on the Village Sands. But the next five years must be planned and we hope that you will give us some great ideas on where to proceed from here. Call, send a letter or email us at the address listed above with suggestions.

Parking Ban lifted: April 1st ends the winter parking ban in the Village. Please remember that there are posted parking limitations near the school and there is also a two-hour parking restriction on Calumet Street throughout the year.

Annual Sanitation Fee: The annual sanitation fee notices will be sent out on April 1st or shortly thereafter. The fee is again \$50 and was formerly assessed in March, but delayed a month so as to avoid a "double-billing" for water and sanitation in March. They are due at the end of April. **PLEASE NOTE: Failure to pay previous delinquencies by April 30th will result in a discontinuation of service and a lien being placed on the property taxes, as per Village ordinance.** If you are typically gone for the winter months we can pro-rate the bill. This is done for most "snowbirds" but if yours is not adjusted just contact us at the clerk's office to make arrangements.

Linden Dunes Golf Course Project: The golf course project is still moving forward. We have published a prospectus on the scope of the project and copies will be available starting in early April at

the clerk's office. Ed Fisher has been working behind the scenes to appropriate funding. Interest in the project is still very much a topic on the table.

Change in water rates: At the last Village Council meeting a water rate increase was proposed and approved pending a redraft and publication of the new rates in the ordinance manual. It is the first water rate increase since 1999 and is approximately 7%. The base charge for village residents will go from \$28.00/4000 gal to \$30.00/4000 gal and the per-thousand rate will go from \$2.95 to \$3.20. On an average billing (6000 gallons), the current water bill of \$33.90 will increase to \$36.40 per two-month billing. The new rates must be published in the paper and will likely go into effect with the July 1st billing.

Park vandalism enforcement: We have had a terrible problem in the last few years with vandalism in the Village park. Special emphasis will be placed on enforcement of park hours and curfew regulations this spring and summer. The park closes at 11:00pm. Anyone in the park past this time will be asked to leave by the Village police. Further violations will be subject to penalties under terms of the Village ordinance, which can be as serious as a \$500 fine. Also, state curfew laws will be enforced throughout the village. These regulations are outlined below and *are punishable under state law*.

MICHIGAN COMPILED LAW; CHAPTER 722 – ACT 41 of 1960

CURFEW FOR CHILDREN

722.751 Curfew for children under 12 years old.

Section 1; No minor under the age of 12 years shall loiter, idle or congregate in or on any public street, highway, alley or park between the hours of 10 o'clock p.m. and 6 o'clock a.m., unless the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian, or some adult delegated by the parent or guardian to accompany the child.

722.752 Curfew for minors under age 16.

Section 2; A minor under the age of 16 years shall not loiter, idle or congregate in or on any public street, highway, alley or park between the hours of 12 midnight and 6 a.m., immediately following, except where the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian, or an adult delegated by the parent or guardian to accompany the minor, or where the minor is upon an errand or other legitimate business directed by his parent or guardian.

722.753 Aiding underage children to violate the law; misdemeanor.

Section 3; Any person of the age of 16 years or over assisting, aiding, abetting, allowing, permitting or encouraging any minor under the age of 16 years to violate the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 hereof is guilty of a misdemeanor.

James M. Aittama, Village President

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