

Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

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Well, for those of you (us) who complained about the cold and snowy winter days and longed for the warm summer sun I say...be careful what you wish for! Three 90 degree days already and it's only June. I can't wait until summer comes next month.

Lake Linden Streetscape Project: Once again the Streetscape Project headlines the newsletter and with good reason. Last week we received the news that we were awarded a Community Development Block Grant for the streetscape in the amount of \$361,000. We were previously awarded an MDOT Transportation grant for \$200,000. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$666,000, so the Village and the DDA must now look for matching funds for the balance. In addition to this, UPPCo has committed to budgeting \$70,000 for their utility pole replacement project that they have graciously delayed until our funding for the streetscape could be obtained. A portion of that total can hopefully be used as a match for the project as well. Final planning details and funding options will be worked out in the coming weeks with U. P. Engineers & Architects and a schedule for project construction will soon be announced. As previously discussed, the Streetscape Project consists of uniform, historic lighting on Calumet Street, curb bumpouts at the corners, clearer pedestrian crosswalks, a widened sidewalk and trees along the 100 block of Calumet St., and a "town square" area in the park near the street with a covered bandstand and gathering area. Plans can be seen at the Village Hall during office hours.

Fourth of July: As everyone knows, it is time for the Village's celebration for Independence Day! This year promises to be one of the biggest yet, with events beginning in the park at 6:30pm Sunday, July 3rd with music from Boodie Creek until 10:30pm. Vendors will be serving food and drinks throughout Sunday evening and Monday as well. At dusk, the fireworks display second to none in the area will light up the sky from the Village Sands. On Monday morning things start at 8:00am with a pancake breakfast at the LLH Elementary School. The Grand Patriotic Parade begins at 9:30 sharp at the bottom of the Calumet Hill and runs through town to 1st Street. While watching, be sure to check out the new Village Police Explorer and Freightliner Fire Truck, which will be on display in the park following the parade. Floats will be judged and prizes awarded and posted that afternoon.

A veteran's service will be held in the park at 1:00 followed by the games and activities for boys and girls at 1:15. Kids, listen for the siren while in the park and head to the tennis courts where \$700 in tickets will be given away! At 6:30, the bike parade lines up so get those bikes decorated and enter for great prizes there as well. Finally, from 6 to 10pm the American Legion Post 90 will have their annual Street Dance on 4th Street between the Post and Village Hall. It will be a great weekend for one and all! Please remember, though, NO firecrackers or other fireworks in the park. There are a lot of little kids running around and it just makes for a dangerous situation. If you must bring pets please keep them on a leash and bring baggies to clean up after them. There will be dozens of garbage cans and several porta-johns for convenience so please help us by using them.

Don't forget to buy those Booster Buttons! And don't forget to thank and congratulate each of the Lake Linden Firemen when you see them. They do all the work to make the holiday a success and every year they do a fantastic job of putting on a celebration that is the envy of the local area. Hope to see all the visitors, guests and residents turn out for the weekend!

Consumer Confidence Report: Enclosed in this newsletter is the 2005 Water Quality report. In the past we have published the report in the rival publication *The Daily Mining Gazette* but found it is less expensive to include it with our June newsletters. Our report this year is very good and meets all state water quality requirements. If you have questions about it please call the Village office at 296-9911.

Water and Sewer Rate Increases: As mentioned previously, the rates on the July water billing will be increasing. The water rate (as charged by the Village) will increase about 7%. This is the first water rate increase since 1999. There will also be a significant increase in the sewage rate (as charged by the Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority). The table below outlines the changes in these rates.

<u>LLV Water Rates:</u>			<u>TLASA Sewage Rates:</u>		
	<u>Previous</u>	<u>New</u>		<u>Previous</u>	<u>New</u>
Base charge			Base charge		
(up to 4000gal): Village:	\$28.00	\$30.00	(up to 4000gal): All users:	\$21.00	\$33.92
Township:	\$35.00	\$37.00			
Per thousand rate			Per thousand rate		
(after 4000gal): Village:	\$2.95	\$ 3.20	(after 4000gal): All users:	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.48
Township:	\$3.75	\$ 4.00			

The following table illustrates the change in the upcoming billing:

If your consumption rate was:	<u>Previous total*</u>	<u>New total*</u>
Minimum (up to 4000g)	V: \$49.00 (\$28.00 water/ \$21.00 sewer) T: \$56.00 (\$35.00 water/ \$21.00 sewer)	\$63.92 (\$30.00wat/ \$33.92 sew) \$68.92 (\$35.00wat/ \$33.92 sew)
Average (6000 gal.)	V: \$60.90 (\$33.90 water/ \$27.00 sewer) T: \$69.50 (\$42.50 water/ \$27.00 sewer)	\$81.28 (\$36.40wat/ \$44.88 sew) \$89.88 (\$45.00wat/ \$44.88 sew)
High (10,000 gal.)	V: \$84.70 (\$45.70 water/ \$39.00 sewer) T: \$96.50 (\$57.50 water/ \$39.00 sewer)	\$116.00 (\$49.20wat/ \$66.80 sew) \$127.80 (\$61.00wat/ \$66.80 sew)

***Bold totals reflect the total amount of your bi-monthly billings**

We understand that these new rates reflect a substantial increase in the total bi-monthly billing. We also understand that, as village residents ourselves, we would want to be able to voice our concerns over these changes. I will *gladly* accept any questions, complaints or concerns regarding the village water rate increase at the clerk’s office. The Village does not, however, have any say or voice over rates charged by the Torch Lake Sewage Authority. We send out the billings for the Authority but that is all. **If you have any comments regarding the sewage rate increase please refer them to the Sewage Authority office at 20 Gregory Street or by phone at 296-0072.**

Tree-cutting policy: I have received numerous questions and requests for tree trimming, cutting and removal this year. I am including the Village policy on tree-cutting here. If you have any further questions please contact the clerk’s office.

Trees on the public right-of-way are considered by the Village to be a valuable natural resource. As such, careful determination will be made for each case brought to the council’s attention for action. The following policy will be applied in these instances. 1) Only trees posing an immediate safety hazard will be removed on a priority basis. All other tree trimming will be done by the Village Public Works Department or contractors retained by the Village when time permits. 2) Requests for tree removal by property owners will be reviewed by the Village on an individual basis. Generally if 1/3 or more of the tree is considered to be “dead” and can’t be saved by pruning, the tree will come down at village expense. 3) If trees need to be pruned or removed for construction and are on the public right-of-way, the property owner on which the construction is occurring will be responsible for all costs.

The following reasons will *NOT* be considered in the removal of trees on the right-of-way: Damage caused by roots to sidewalks or driveways- The village has a shared-expense sidewalk replacement policy. Roots in the sewer line- In this event the sewer line needs to be replaced. If tree roots can get in then sewage can get out. Property clean-up issues- Because the tree drops leaves on a private property is not sufficient reason to cut down the tree. The above-listed policies will be generally followed when conflicts arise. But the Village Council reserves the right to resolve specific instances as they see fit.

Curfew enforcement: Because of ongoing problems with property damage (vandalism) in the park and at residences in the Village and a wave of stolen bikes, state curfew laws will be strictly enforced this summer, especially during the holiday weekend. Those laws are: under the age of 12 without parent or guardian – 10pm; under the age of 16 without parent or guardian – midnight. Anyone out unaccompanied after those hours is subject to a fine for curfew violation. Also, the park and marina close at 11pm. Anyone in the park after hours is subject to a fine of up to \$500, as per Village ordinance.

James M. Aittama, Village President

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