

# Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

James Aittama, President  
Robert A. Poirier, Clerk  
Cheryl J. Stevens, Treasurer

Phone: (906) 296-9911  
Fax: (906) 296-1044  
E-mail: [vll@lakelinden.net](mailto:vll@lakelinden.net)  
Web: [www.lakelinden.net](http://www.lakelinden.net)

**September, 2005**

It seems as though this newsletter just went out but it has been three summer months since the last issue. A lot of things have been happening in the Village and an exciting project has been given the green light after a lengthy planning process. Also, since this is the last newsletter before the holidays let me be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Lake Linden Streetscape Project:** This past week, the Village Council held a special meeting to approve going ahead with the Downtown Streetscape Project. Since the first public hearings were held in November of 2003, the Council and the DDA have been working with UPPCo and U. P. Engineers and Architects to hammer out the details of a comprehensive facelift for the downtown area. The Village has received a grant from MDOT for \$200,000 and a block grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for \$361,000 to fund a majority of the \$666,000 project. The Village and the DDA are currently looking at funding options for the remaining \$105,000. The surveyors for UPEA have been working on Calumet Street and final plans are being readied for the start of construction in the spring. The maps and key below show key features of the project and full size maps and details of the plan can be seen during business hours at the Village Clerk's office.

## Maps available in the Village Clerk's Office

- MAP KEY:**
1. Town Square w/ bandstand/gazebo to formalize the central meeting area in the park
  2. Pedestrian Crosswalk—to formalize pedestrian traffic and provide safer access to the park
  3. Light poles – black steel poles with historic arms and light fixtures. 19 poles will be added between 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, along with lights to give a more uniform look to the street.
  4. Bump-outs at the corners to provide safer pedestrian crossing and slow traffic thru town.
  5. Crosswalks at intersections for safer and more formalized pedestrian traffic.

The Village Council is also currently determining the feasibility of plans and costs for extending the historic poles and light fixtures through 10<sup>th</sup> Street. This process is quite complicated and includes amending the grants already approved, but we are hopeful that this can be worked out by spring as well.

**Parking ban:** Soon, winter weather will be here and the need for plowing won't be far behind. Our winter parking ban on village streets goes into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>. If vehicles are left on the street overnight they will be ticketed and/or towed. Details and the public notice will be posted in the *Gazette* some time in late October.

**Fall Clean-up:** I have already received several calls regarding the fall clean-up. As always, it will be for leaves, brush and branches only. Pile leaves over the curb on the side of the road or place them in *biodegradable bags*. Branches should be cut in lengths no longer than 4 feet. Dates have not yet been determined as it normally depends on the trees themselves. Our usual format is three Monday pick-ups two weeks apart beginning sometime in mid to late October. Again, a notice will be posted in the *Gazette* well before the dates.

**Help us out:** A \$500 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual who made the bomb threat at the high school last June. You can remain anonymous if you wish. The Lake Linden Police have a phone line for you to call in anonymous information or tips on any crime or incident in the Village. If you call **296-9912** your call will not be identified and you can leave your information anonymously. So please help us out by being vigilant and notifying us if you see incidents occurring. Thank you very much!

There has been a rash of stolen bikes lately, as well. If you have any information regarding these incidents please call the LLPD or the aforementioned tip line.

**Campground openings:** We had another banner year in the village campground, coming very close to our 70% occupancy rate from the previous year. When we reopen next spring we will be needing a campground host. The job consists of registering campers, monitoring the campground and communicating with the office staff during the year. We will be looking for someone to stay from Memorial Day through Labor Day. You can call the Village office at 296-9911 with any questions. We will be taking applications after the first of the year in late winter. I will remind everyone again in the next two newsletters.

**French-Canadian Christmas:** We will be hosting the French Canadian Christmas again this year. If you did not get a chance to attend the events last year they were great. There are horse-drawn wagon rides, an arts & crafts creation area in the elementary school hosted by Keweenaw Krayons and BHK, and Santa arrives on the Christmas train at the museum to hear requests from boys and girls. There are other things planned as well for this year. It is on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> so come out to enjoy these activities. If you would like to help with organization or ideas, please contact Nancy at 296-9568. Look for ads and posters for times and locations of the different events.

### **ORDINANCE ENFORCEMENT**

As winter approaches so does snow removal. Again last year we had several complaints regarding the piling and pushing of snow from peoples driveways onto the street. Following is the village ordinance regulating this activity. Please remember that you are subject to fines for violating the ordinance so please pay attention to the restrictions.

Snow cannot be taken from a driveway or property and dumped on the village street unless it is immediately adjacent to the existing snow bank alongside the property. This means that in no case is it permissible to haul or push it across the street and in no case can it impede traffic by making the street too narrow for vehicles to pass safely. If this ordinance is violated the Village may, at its discretion, haul that snow away and bill the property owner for the cost.

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James M. Aittama, Village President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk