

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
Web: www.lakelinden.net

December, 2005

Happy New Year to everyone! 2005 came and went very fast and a number of great things are scheduled to happen in the Village for 2006. We look forward to a summer of big changes and vast improvements as the downtown streetscape renovation gets set to begin.

Lake Linden Streetscape Project: All systems are go for the streetscape project to begin in the spring. Work had been ongoing with the engineers and financial arrangements are being finalized as we go to press. By the time the construction season begins contractors will be ready to start the \$666,000 facelift. Hopefully, most of the work will be finished this summer and we will see a big change by this coming fall. Again, the streetscape involves new, historic light poles and lights (all the way through 10th Street), curb bumpouts at the intersections, landscaping and widened sidewalks on the 100 block of Calumet St, and a new "town square" area with bandstand in the village park.

Village Elections: As many long-time Lake Linden residents are aware, even-numbered years typically mean Village elections in March. However, that has changed with the passage of the Michigan Election Consolidation Act in 2004. The Act gives each village the choice of continuing to conduct its own elections or allowing the Townships who conduct the national elections to conduct local elections for them. Lake Linden chose to have their elections run by Schoolcraft Township in November along with the national elections. All filings, forms and registrations will be conducted by the Township from now on. While it may cause a little confusion the first time it is believed that in the long term it will make it easier for local residents to get out and vote for all officials at the same time. **Again, there will be no Village election in 2006 until November 7th, the next national election.**

Housing Commission Vacancies: The Village Council is currently seeking applications to fill several vacancies on the Lake Linden Housing Commission Board. The Commission meets once per month to conduct the business of the LLV Housing Authority which operates two larger facilities (Rustic Meadows and Maple Lane Apartments) along with 16 homes around the village. People with a commitment to the community and a willingness to devote a little time and knowledge are needed. It is a five-year term and does not necessarily require Village residency. Please call the Clerk's office for more information at 296-9911 or stop by the Village Hall to pick up an application. The deadline for applications is Tuesday, January 10th for consideration at the January 12th Village Council meeting.

Downtown Development Authority Vacancy: There is also one opening on the Lake Linden DDA Board. Anyone who has an interest in local issues and would like to be involved in the development of the Downtown area can call or stop by the Village Hall for more information. It is an exciting time for the DDA with the pending streetscape project and other improvement plans so take this opportunity to get involved and make a difference in the community.

Participation: The above-mentioned openings are important ways to involve yourself in the happenings of the Village. But you need not serve directly on these Boards to make your feelings known. The Lake Linden Village Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Village Hall. Though rules are in place to conduct the official business of the Village, the meetings are generally informal enough to let you express your opinion on any topic relating to the Village. The Council is always looking for new ideas, information, constructive criticism and other input from residents concerning the things that concern you. Even if you do not have a pressing issue to bring up just sitting in on a meeting can make you aware of other things that are going on around your town. These meetings rarely exceed 45 minutes (though you don't have to stay the whole time) so come down to see how things are done. Meeting changes, special meetings, public hearings and other announcements are always posted at the Range Bank on 3rd St, the post office in town, and on the front door of the Village Hall at least three days beforehand. The meeting dates for the Council for 2006 are listed below:

January 12th
April 13th
July 13th
October 12th

February 9th
May 11th
August 10th
November 9th

March 9th
June 8th
September 14th
December 14th

French-Canadian Christmas: We would like to thank all those that participated in the French Canadian Christmas celebration this year. A special thanks to Nancy Fisher for all the hard work and long hours she put in. If you would like to get involved for next year it is never too early to call her at 296-9568 to volunteer your time and ideas.

Reservations for the Campground for Independence Day: We will begin taking reservations for the 4th of July weekend after the first of the year. As always it is on a first-come, first served basis. This year we are also looking for someone who can devote the time to being campground host. The position currently involves checking in campers and the campsite is free as long as you are the host. Please call the Clerk's Office if you are interested to discuss arrangements. Also, if the sites are gone for the 4th of July, please put your name and number on the waiting list as we usually call several names on that list after cancellations. If we do not have a host we will not be taking as many overflow reservations this year as in the past.

Garbage Bag Sales: It still happens every once in a while when people come in to the office to buy garbage bags. They do not realize that they can also be purchased at Louie's Super Valu. Our office hours are limited so they are available at the service counter there for the same price as at the office here. So if you cannot make it during the day you can pick them up at Louie's until close.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

I'd like to take this opportunity to answer a few questions that come up from time to time. Although most of the questions I get come from people that live outside the Village (I don't know why either) these actually pertain to Village residents.

Q. What time does the garbage get picked up on Tuesday mornings?

A. At my house it is just before I get outside to put it out. If you put it out the night before you are safe. (Actually, they start at 4am) If your garbage is picked up on Friday I can't help you.

Q. When did the price of garbage bags go up?

A. Not since 1999. Every week someone comes in to complain about the increase. My answer to that is when prices go up it must be posted in the paper. We don't "sneak" those in.

Q. What days can I come in to pay the winter tax bill?

A. No days. The village has only one tax and it comes in July. Winter tax bills must be payed at the Township office on Front St.

Q. What time does the office close?

A. Office hours are 8am to 4pm Monday through Fridays. Since there are only two of us and we do get time off occasionally, and we do have errands to run occasionally, the office may be closed for short periods of time without notice. We apologize for these inconveniences.

Q. Normally the Village crew does a great job with snow removal, but %#\$%^*%@ !!!

A. We have four guys on the public works crew and they bust it every morning. We do not intentionally plow or throw snow in peoples yards, bend tree limbs, block views on the corners or leave "extra" snow in peoples walks or driveways. During plowing operations these things sometimes occur but a civil phone call to let us know normally gets it taken care of. For the most part the complaints we receive are very polite. But if you call here or come in with vulgar or threatening language you will be hung up on/thrown out until such time when you can be civil.

James M. Aittama, Village President

Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk