

Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

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I remember telling everyone last fall that winter would be over before we knew it. Once again I am proven right as here, only six short months later, winter is *almost* over. With the advent of spring we draw closer to the beginning of the streetscape project and the makeover of the downtown area.

Lake Linden Streetscape Project: The Village Council and the DDA have completed the necessary steps to arrange the financing of the Village share of the \$666,000 project. We are awaiting the issuance of the bonds in the amount of \$125,000 which should be some time in late May. U.P. Engineers is currently putting the finishing touches on the designs and the current plan is to bid for construction some time in June. This means that construction may begin immediately following our Independence Day celebration and be done before the onset of winter. This project will have a dramatic impact on the appearance of Calumet Street all the way to 10th Street with new sidewalk bumpouts, new light poles, new street lights and pedestrian crosswalks.

Scrap Metal Pick-up: The Village has scheduled a curbside scrap metal pick-up for residents on Saturday, May 20th. If it cannot be completed on the 20th there may be some carryover to Sunday the 21st but don't assume there will be a Sunday pick-up. There is no cost and all metal items will be picked up including coolant items such as refrigerators, air conditioners, freezers, etc. These items are free (no vacuum charge) but need to be brought to the curbside. Old cars will also be picked up. However, you will need to call the Clerk's office (296-9911) in advance to arrange pick-up for a vehicle for that date. If you do not call ahead it will not be picked up. Notices will be run in the *Gazette* before the pick-up as well. This is a great service for our residents and we only ask that you try not to put items out too long before the 20th pick-up so they don't sit at the curb for a long time.

Spring Clean-up: The spring cleanup dates will be Monday, April 17th, Monday, May 1st and Monday, May 15th. This clean-up is only for leaves, brush and branches. Large branches should be cut into pieces no longer than 4 feet and bundled if possible. Christmas trees will be picked up as well. If leaves are bagged they should be in biodegradable bags or will not be taken. Again, notices will be run in the *Gazette* before the scheduled dates.

Water Testing Fee: Because of the rising prices of testing and sampling required by the State of Michigan on our Village Water System, the Council is considering adding a small fee to the bi-monthly water bill. The Village expends thousands of dollars annually in testing costs, annual fees, reporting requirements and membership fees so that our water system is in compliance with all state and federal regulations concerning our water quality. Currently, these funds come out of the water operating and maintenance budgets but are becoming burdensome. It is thought that a .75 to \$1.00 charge added to the water bill would help to offset these financial requirements. Again, this is only being considered at this point and will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Garbage Bag Price Review: Our most recent garbage bag order from Calco Chemical, the company that supplies our bags, came with a surprise. Our costs for the bags have increased about 7%. We did not receive word from Calco prior to the increase so it was unexpected. Unfortunately, this means that to continue to cover our operating costs the Council is considering a price increase for the bags. As everyone knows a roll of yellow bags (10/roll) is now \$7.50 and the large blue bags are \$5.00 (5/roll). To recoup the cost increase would require each roll to increase .50, to \$8.00 per roll for yellow and \$5.50 per roll for large blue. This seems very likely as we cannot continue to sell them at a substantial loss. If prices do increase it will be the first time in almost 7 years that they will have gone up. I think it is important to note that our sanitation fund does not operate to make a profit. It is intended to be self-sufficient and these increases will probably be required to continue operations.

Secondary Water Meters: It will soon be the season to begin watering lawns and gardens again and the subject of secondary water meters has come up. These secondary meters will register water used on lawns and gardens throughout the summer months and read in the fall. At that time you will receive a credit on the sewage portion of your water bill at the consumption rate charged. In other words, if 10,000 gallons pass through the secondary meter, at the end of the summer you will receive a 10,000 gallon credit to the November water bill. The secondary meter program is run completely through the Torch Lake Area Sewage Authority. Residents buy the meters and install them themselves. Further details on the program are available from Fran at 296-0072.

MTU Mini-Baja feedback: The following letter was received by the Village to it's residents:

Dear Residents of Lake Linden,

On February 18th we held the 2006 MTU Winter Baja off-road race with the generous support of your Village Council and Public Works. We were thrilled to see so many residents come to watch the event this year! Our goal is to improve this race both for the spectators and the participants, so please let us know if you have any ideas. You can contact us via email at Winterbaja-1@mtu.edu or at the on-line forum at <http://baja-forums.me.mtu.edu>

Drew Faulkner, MTU Mini-Baja Team

Village Park and Marina: The Village Park officially opens for the summer on Memorial Day weekend. Hopefully, the playground and Tot Lot will be snow-free much sooner. Keep in mind that the park closes nightly at 11:00pm. After that time no one is permitted in the park proper or in the marina area. Pavilions (in the campground and in the upper park) can be reserved for parties and other gatherings throughout the summer as well. Also, this year marina slips will be available for seasonal rentals. The recreation committee will soon meet to determine specific regulations and fees, but if you are interested please contact the Village Clerk's office.

DDA Vacancy: There is still an opening on the DDA so if you are interested come to one of their meetings on the third Thursday of any month to find out what is going on.

ORDINANCE REVIEW

Last year the Village Council passed an ordinance for noise enforcement in response to a demand from residents to do something to alleviate these occurrences in the Village. Here is a summary and review of that ordinance. The actual ordinance can be obtained at the Village Clerk's office during office hours. The Lake Linden Police will be paying particular attention to this ordinance this year.

Ordinance Series 14000, Chapter 14001, Amended – Noise Control

GENERAL REGULATION. No person, firm or corporation shall cause or create any unreasonable or unnecessarily loud noise or disturbance, injuries to the health, peace or quiet of residents of the Village as enumerated below: Playing of any electronic sound-producing device in a manner to disturb the quiet; Yelling, shouting or singing on public streets between 10pm & 7am to disturb the quiet; Keeping of any animal which emanates frequent or extended noise which disturbs the quiet; Operation of any auto, motorcycle or other vehicle so out of repair or constructed to cause unnecessary noise; Sounding of a horn or other safety device in a manner other than for safety purposes; Erection, excavation, alteration or repair of any building or premises to disturb the quiet between sundown and 7am except in urgent cases; Operation of a loudspeaker on any vehicle within the Village limits. **PENALTIES:** Each violation of this ordinance is subject to a fines up to \$500 and/or confinement in the County Jail for not more than 90 days

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