

# Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

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## April 2007

Hello to everyone once again. Here we are heading into April and the winter snow has seemingly disappeared. Hopefully our annual "St. Patrick's Day" storm wasn't postponed until Easter and we can get an early start on our spring projects and spring cleaning.

**Spring Clean-up Dates:** Speaking of spring cleaning, our dates for the collection of yard waste have been set. They will be **Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**, **Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**, and **Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**. This is for leaves and branches only, not for household trash or garbage. If possible please rake the leaves out over the curb and bundle branches in lengths no longer than 4'. If your leaves are not picked up on these dates it is probably because the crew was not able to get to it on that day. Be assured that it will be picked up as soon as possible after the above-mentioned dates. There will be ads in the *Daily Mining Gazette* the week before the clean-up dates.

**Streetscape Project:** The street lights and poles that will finish off the Streetscape project are scheduled to be installed some time in April. UPPCo will be replacing them with steel poles and decorative arms and fixtures. The finished light poles will add a great new look to the street, especially along the 100 block which will also have the additional trees and landscaping.

If you have not yet seen the bandstand/pavilion in the park please check it out. It looks great and the landscaping around it should take shape in the spring/summer. We will have the updated layout for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities in the park in the next newsletter at the end of June.

The final stage of the downtown renovation in conjunction with the streetscape project was the resurfacing of M-26 by the Michigan Dept. of Transportation. This will actually extend from Ripley to Laurium, through our Village, and include Calumet Street up to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. (It also calls for a passing relief lane between Mason and Dollar Bay.) Originally scheduled for this summer, the project has been moved to the summer of 2008. Once completed, this project will give the downtown area a beautifully finished appearance with new pavement, new markings, and eliminate the patching from the crosswalk installation. (It was originally hoped that the patches would be eliminated this year with the M-26 project.) We have heard complaints about the new crosswalks being "bumpy" as you drive through town. That is because when the road is resurfaced the new pavement would not be "grooved" where the car tires have worn the pavement down.

**Village Campground:** We are currently taking applications for a campground host for the upcoming summer. The hosts check in campers during off-hours and generally keep an eye on the campground. The hosts must spend the majority of their time in the campground and be available from mid-June through the end of August. There is no charge for the host's campsite while they are here. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about it please contact me at the Village office at 296-9911.

**Winter Parking Ban:** Please remember that the winter parking ban is still in effect until April 30<sup>th</sup>. While we understand that the lack of snow may make this seem unusual we all know that snow could fall at any time in any amounts and snow removal could still become an issue. We would appreciate your cooperation in this regard for a little longer.

**Email Opinion and Comment Forum:** For some time we have been considering methods of soliciting opinions from residents on various matters. Countless times the Council has met to discuss various issues, projects, problems and solutions and has done so with little or no input from village residents. Even public hearings are sparsely attended. Only a few attend meetings regularly and even then it is often after-the-fact comments or complaints.

While there is no perfect way to reach everyone, an email forum seems like the most efficient way to solicit these opinions. From time to time our intention is to ask you what you think about various topics and to help in shaping the Council's discussion on these matters.

We are asking every resident who wishes to participate in this forum to send an email to [vll@lakelinden.net](mailto:vll@lakelinden.net). When we receive the email we will place it on the list of contacts and you will receive periodic questions or ideas being considered by the Council, office, public works crew or police department. If you would like to comment on these ideas or bring up a topic you think should be considered, we want to encourage you to do so.

Don't limit the comments to your own. If you know a resident with an idea or suggestion but with no access to email, by all means please pass it along. We promise not to hold complaints against anyone and will, of course, claim all good ideas as our own (just kidding). The worst kind of comment or criticism is one that comes after the fact. Our hope is that we can get many of you to help with ideas and take a more active role in the shaping of our Village's policies.

**Village Hall Restoration:** We are currently in the process of applying for another grant to continue the exterior renovation of the Village Hall. Over the past two years we have received \$74,000 from The Americana Foundation, a small foundation in Novi, Michigan, that funds historical preservation projects. In Phase I, the front of the building was cleaned, tuck-pointed, problem areas were re-mortared, and the fascia was repaired. In Phase II, the south side of the building was repaired and the sandstone foundation around the fire hall doors, which was seriously deteriorated, was re-done. This year attention will focus on the tower which is in drastic need of repair. Hopefully the Americana's generosity will help fund this project for at least one more year.

**Lake Linden Historical Designation:** The Americana Foundation has also funded a study to determine if the Lake Linden Downtown area qualifies to be designated as a historic district. This study does not mean the district will be designated as such, only that it would qualify. As the study progresses, public hearings will be held to discuss options, benefits and drawbacks of the designation. No decision is imminent and again, because of the Americana Foundation, there has been and will be no cost to the Village for this information.

**Village Council Vacancy:** There is still a vacant seat on the Lake Linden Village Council. If you have ever thought of running for the Council or of serving the Village in this capacity, please give us a call at 296-9911 or email at [vll@lakelinden.net](mailto:vll@lakelinden.net). The only requirement is that you be a legal resident of the incorporated Village. The term of this appointment is through November of 2008.

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James M. Aittama, Village President

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Robert A. Poirier, Village Clerk