

Village Voice

Village of Lake Linden Newsletter

Edward R. Fisher, President
Robert A. Poirier, Clerk
Jill DuMonthier, Treasurer

Phone: (906) 296-9911
Fax: (906) 296-1044
E-mail: vll@lakelinden.net
Web: www.lakelinden.net

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Can it be that the long, cold winter is behind us? I may have jinxed it by declaring it over but I will gladly take the credit when the warmer weather moves in. It is a busy time here at the Village. There are a couple of potentially big projects to work on and a lot of stuff to get ready for the coming season so spring fever will not deter us from our appointed tasks!

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: Like everyone else in the free world, we have submitted projects to the government for funding under the stimulus bill. Our main infrastructure project is the water, sewer, electric and natural gas expansion in the Sibilsky Acres II plat (between 12th Street and the Bootjack Rd. near the Traprock River). We are also working with Torch Lake and Osceola Townships on another water project still in the development phase. It seems as though the monies from that legislation may be watered down (no pun intended) a bit after the state determines the way it will be utilized, but we are still as hopeful as anyone else that we can take advantage of this opportunity.

Cell Phone Tower: Another portion of the stimulus plan is 4.7 billion for a competitive grant program for purchasing equipment, instrumentation, network capability, digital network technology, infrastructure for broadband services and public computer center capacity. The number one priority on the community survey was the lack of reliable cell phone service here in town and we have been getting doors closed in our face for better than a year by cell carriers, tower companies and service providers who will not put us on their construction list because of a lack of subscribers. Hopefully this program will give us the toe-hold we need to get this done.

Community/Teen Center: We have also been meeting with an enterprise group of construction design students from Michigan Tech about a concept for a teen center in or near the Village park. They have come up with some conceptual drawings that include a music room, study room and computer room. Groups of students from the high school will also be asked for their advice and opinions on the project. However, this is a long-term project and is just beginning. It is also in response to the community survey that showed having a place for young people to meet and socialize was a high priority for Village residents.

Spring Clean-up dates: It is still a bit early for us to predict actual clean-up dates for this spring. When they are determined they will be posted in the Gazette (usually on Fridays), on the main page of our website (www.lakelinden.net), and announced on local radio stations. This clean-up is only for yard waste, branches, etc. No household trash or inorganic items will be picked up.

Campground Rates: After deliberating and passing a new park ordinance, the Council has approved a new weekly rate for camping this year. A seven-day stay will now cost \$100, saving \$40 over the daily charge. These rates are subject to availability and are not in effect for the week of the 4th of July.

Marina Docking fees: The Village is also taking application for seasonal boat slips for the upcoming season. There are still several available at a cost of \$20 per boat foot for the season. If you would like electrical at the slip it is an additional \$10-\$30 per month. Get on the list by calling the clerk's office as soon as possible.

Police Vehicle Grant: The Village has been approved for a \$14,000 grant towards the purchase of a new police vehicle. The grant, which comes through the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Program, is now in the final stage of funding. It is hoped that, through the sale of the current police vehicle and the \$14,000 from USDA, a new vehicle can be obtained at very little out-of-pocket cost to the Village.

Business Directory: Our Village website is undergoing an update which will create a much more interactive and useful tool for Village residents. To that end the business directory will be updated as well. Links, contact info and possibly photos are to be included. All local businesses will be contacted in an effort to get these updates but if you would like to call the Village office to present your information you are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

FIND IT HERE! Community Rummage Sale: Thanks to an overwhelming response from last year's event we are going to make it an annual affair. This year's date is Saturday, May 16th. We have debated having it later but with graduations, school dismissal, and Memorial Day it seems as though this will work best. It may be a bit chilly but because of the huge turnout last year it was well worth it. If you plan on having a sale you can start by contacting the Village office and registering to be on the map. This year, I will add a short description to your sale (like "baby clothes", "estate sale", "furniture", "tools") to better market your sale. There is no cost for Village residents to be included, and this year we will put sales immediately surrounding the

Village on the map for \$5, which we will use to defray copying and advertising costs. These maps are distributed throughout the Copper Country and will be well worth the donation. **Please register your sale by Friday, April 24th so we can compile the maps and get them distributed! Call 296-9911 or email at yll@lakelinden.net!**

www.lakelinden.net: As mentioned earlier the Village website will be undergoing an overhaul in the next few months. The business directory will be enhanced as well as pages for the Police Department, Downtown Development Authority, a complete ordinance manual, and an announcement window on the home page with info on subjects of immediate concern to residents. As always, email questions are welcomed at any time.

Downtown Development Authority: The Lake Linden DDA has a vacancy on their Board. The Board meets once per month and is looking for someone who would be active in working on community projects and willing to interject ideas for improving the downtown area. Interested applicants should contact the Village Clerk's office at their convenience.

4th of July Holiday: This year the 4th of July falls on a Saturday. We get calls all the time about the schedule when the 4th is on a weekend. The schedule for this coming year will remain the same as always. Fireworks will be on the evening of the 3rd and the parade will be on the morning of the 4th. It is not altered by the fact that it is on the weekend.

Police Blotter: Because of increased demand recently, Chief Peters has set aside specific times for people to come in to register firearms and get gun locks. Each Monday from 11am to 1pm and every Thursday from 5pm until 7pm the police office will be open for those who want to register their firearms. There is no need to call for an appointment during these times.

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