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# VILLAGER

VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX INFORMATION NEWS

Mar. 2011

## Triple Play Concerts Returning to Commons

Mayor Baldermann is happy to announce the return of the Triple Play Concert Series to the New Lenox Commons. We have a very exciting line-up for this year's concert series.

- Kicking off our very popular series of concerts on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> is the national recording act Starship starring Mickey Thomas.
- Chicago area favorite Cheap Trick will rock the Commons on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- One of the most requested bands for the Commons, REO Speedwagon will wrap up the season on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The 2011 Triple Play Concert Tickets will go on sale on March 14<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup> for New Lenox residents only at the discounted price of \$50.00. One ticket will get you in to all three shows. After May 1<sup>st</sup>, tickets are \$60.00 for everyone, including New Lenox residents.

Gates open at 5:30 p.m. on concerts dates and close one hour after the final act finishes. Free bus shuttle from the Metra lot on Route 30 to the event will be provided. As in previous years, local restaurants will have food for purchase at the concerts. Beverages will be available for purchase as well.

All items brought into the park are subject to search – no pets, coolers, outside food or beverages will be allowed in the park. Assistance animals are permitted. There is no re-admittance to the park once you have entered. There are no refunds, and resale of tickets is not permitted.

## Village Meeting Dates

Village Board meets the second, third, and fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

The Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals meet the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

All meetings are in the Village Council Chambers at the Village Hall, 1 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox.

Agendas for Village Board and Plan Commission meetings are posted at the Village Hall. Village Board meetings air on New Lenox Channel 6 starting the day after the meeting.

## VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Timothy Baldermann, Mayor  
Laura Ruhl, Village Clerk  
Annette Bowden, Trustee  
David Butterfield, Trustee  
Nancy Dye, Trustee  
Keith Madsen, Trustee  
David Smith, Trustee  
Ray Tuminello, Trustee  
Russ Loebe, Village Administrator  
Village Information can be found at [www.newlenox.net](http://www.newlenox.net)  
email: [info@newlenox.net](mailto:info@newlenox.net)

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**REMINDER: TWO WEEKS OF  
FREE LEAF  
PICK-UP  
BEGINS WEEK OF APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>.**



As part of our contract with NuWay, Village residents receive eight weeks of free leaf collection. Six of the eight weeks occur in the fall, with the remaining two weeks of free leaf collection taking place in the spring. This gives residents the opportunity to rid of leaves that would have fallen in late fall or early winter.



## PARKING REMINDER

For the safety of both motorists and pedestrians, the New Lenox Police Department would like to remind all citizens of New Lenox that it is unlawful to park your vehicle/trailer across village sidewalks. Village ordinance 90-174(1) states "no person shall park a vehicle on a sidewalk." Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## VEHICLE STICKERS AND PET TAGS ON SALE



The Village would like to remind all village residents that motor vehicle stickers are required for all motor vehicles in the Village, including passenger cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Stickers go on sale Tuesday, March 1, 2011, and may be purchased at the Village Hall. For our residents' convenience, payments and the completed forms can be mailed back to the Village Hall in the blue pre-addressed return envelopes. Stickers purchased between March 1 and March 31st are \$15.00; between April 1 and April 30 stickers are \$20.00; and after May 1 stickers are \$30.00. Stickers must be displayed by May 1, 2009. Stickers for Senior citizens (65 and older) are \$1.00.

New residents have thirty days to get their sticker for the discount price (same price as offered during the March vehicle sticker sale). Anyone who has already purchased a sticker for a vehicle, and since sold or discarded that vehicle can transfer that sticker to a newly purchased vehicle for \$1.00. Money collected from vehicle sticker purchases is used to fund public safety projects including the community policing program, neighborhood watch, and sidewalk replacement projects. Any questions should be directed to the Village Hall at 815 462-6400 weekdays or Saturday mornings. The Village would like to remind all residents that the vehicle sticker ordinance is strictly enforced.

March is also the month that pet tags also go on sale. The fee for each pet tag is \$2.00. Pet tag applications are sent out to residents along with the vehicle sticker applications. Pet tag payments can be included in vehicle sticker payments and returned in the same blue envelope.

## VILLAGE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZES CANADIAN NATIONAL AGREEMENT TO FUND QUIET ZONE IMPROVEMENTS



New Lenox officials at their December 20<sup>th</sup> Village Board Meeting announced that Canadian National Railway Co. has agreed to fund the design and installation of Quiet Zone improvements at five railroad crossings in and adjacent to the Village.

The improvements will be made at the Gougar, Nelson, Cedar, Spencer and Schoolhouse Road crossings. They are part of a mitigation agreement approved on December 20<sup>th</sup> between the Village of New Lenox and the Canadian National Railway Co.

Mayor Tim Baldermann supported the agreement. "We are pleased to announce this agreement. This mitigation agreement will benefit Village and Township residents alike through the elimination of blaring train whistles on the CN line through New Lenox. The Village and CN have negotiated Quiet Zone improvements along the entire stretch of the CN rail line between Gougar Road to east of Schoolhouse Road.

The improvements include constant warning time circuitry at all five locations. Once the Quiet Zone has been implemented, CN will fund the additional measures needed to maintain the Quiet Zone designation of the former Elgin, Joliet & Eastern line in and around the Village should CN train volumes increase in those areas.

Under a memorandum of agreement between the Village Board and Grand Trunk Corp., a U.S. subsidiary and owner of the U.S. rail operating subsidiaries of Canadian National, the railway company also has agreed to contribute \$500,000 toward preliminary engineering and assessment of options for a grade separation at Gougar Road.

Although the Gougar Road crossing is in unincorporated New Lenox, Village officials believe it is important to the community's present and future transportation network.

CN also agreed to pay New Lenox \$240,000 for noise and visual mitigation. The Village will use the funds to construct mitigation elements on non-railroad property adjacent to the right of ways.

The railroad company agreed to abide by New Lenox's Train Blockage Protocol. The protocol establishes a call list of municipal officials should a CN train block a roadway for more than 10 minutes without train movement or a signal malfunction that causes the railroad crossing arms to block the roadway.

Under the agreement, CN also agreed to provide:

- Emergency response training, both in-house and off-site, to New Lenox's first responders;
- A web-based system to monitor the location and direction of trains that will help in the event of an emergency;
- A fee waiver for all existing municipal utility license agreements between CN and New Lenox for 10 years. CN will convey up to four easements for municipal utility crossings at no charge for 10 years from December 20, 2010, the effective date of the agreement.

In addition, CN agreed to cooperate with New Lenox in the annexation of CN's railroad right-of-way in unincorporated Will County and contiguous to the Village if New Lenox chooses to annex all or a portion of the unincorporated right-of-way.

In return, the Village will not pursue further action from either the Surface Transportation Board or the Appellate Court.

After two and a half years of working with our governmental partners in Will County Government and negotiating with the CN, we feel that we have reached an agreement that looks out for New Lenox and the residents today and in the future.

# Referendum May Select New Lenox Power Supplier

## VOTE April 5

The State recently passed Public Act 96-0176, which allows cities and villages to bid for the supply of electric power on behalf of residents and small commercial retail users. Known as Community Choice Aggregation, the goal of these programs is to allow local governments to offer their residents the option of obtaining a cheaper energy supply. Currently New Lenox residents and small businesses receive their electricity through ComEd at a fixed rate.

Under Community Choice Aggregation, the Village would bid for competing electric rates on behalf of its residents and small commercial retail users. Residents would still receive their electricity through the ComEd delivery system and would continue to receive customer service, such as billing and outage response through ComEd. In fact, the Village of New Lenox has been buying power this way for the last four years. We are buying the power for our water pumping and street lighting on the open market, and it is then delivered by ComEd.

In order to proceed with the Community Choice Aggregation Program, the Village of New Lenox will be placing a Referendum on the April 5 ballot. If the majority of voters concur, then the Village can seek lower electric rates for its residents. Similar to how the village saves money on water pumping and street lighting, we would be in partnership with the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Cooperative to solicit bids from several energy suppliers. The Village and NIMEC would analyze the bids and recommend a contract to the Board for approval.

Prior to the referendum, residents will of course have questions. The following Q & A attempts to answer many of those questions.

**Question: How can the Village purchase power at a potentially lower cost?**

*Answer:* Deregulation allows the Village to shop for power and purchase in bulk for our customers at a lower price.

**Question: Who will take care of my power if there is an outage?**

*Answer:* ComEd, by law, will still be paid to distribute the power to the homes and businesses and handle any emergency repairs.

**Question: What if I don't want to participate in the program?**

*Answer:* Residents will have multiple opportunities to "opt out" of the program, which will be your right by law.

**Question: How do I opt-out of the program?**

*Answer:* Customers will have a few chances to opt-out of the aggregation program, but must do so before the Village service begins. Customers will receive notice from ComEd informing them of the opt-out period, who to contact, and how they must communicate their intention to opt-out. The Illinois Commerce Commission has yet to determine the course of action to be taken if a customer who opted out, decides to rejoin the Community Choice Aggregation option at a later date.

**Question: What happens if the Village cannot purchase or negotiate lower rates than ComEd?**

*Answer:* Your account would stay at ComEd and ComEd would be both the power provider and the local distribution company. Either way, ComEd will be our distributor. By voting yes on the referendum, ComEd will then have to compete with power suppliers from throughout the Midwest to provide our power.

**Question: Why is this opportunity available?**

*Answer:* This is the last part of the Deregulation Process. Until this Act was amended, only larger customers such as industrial, commercial, and governmental entities could participate. Three fourths of this commercial load is currently purchased from sources other than ComEd.

**Question: Why is the Village of New Lenox doing this?**

*Answer:* The Village does not profit from this. We, as a governmental organization, are trying to take advantage of the new law to benefit our residents and small business and save them money.

**Question: I am currently enrolled in ComEd's budget program where you are able to spread out your ComEd electric service costs evenly throughout the year. Will the new power provider have this or a similar program?**

*Answer:* The Village will request that this program is included in the bid specs.

**Question: What happens if the new power provider cannot meet its demand? Will we see brownouts? Would there be a surcharge to cover the costs of getting power from another supplier?**

### TIPS FOR RECYCLING BATTERIES

Many times the Village is asked about how to dispose of batteries. Will County has provided information on its website on how to safely dispose of batteries. Most household batteries are alkaline batteries and are either mercury free or have an extremely low mercury content. These batteries are not considered hazardous and can be disposed of in your garbage. Button batteries, Lithium batteries, and rechargeable batteries need to be kept out of the refuse stream. Will County has established partnerships with various retailers to assist residents with recycling batteries. Batteries will also be accepted at the periodic Household Hazardous Waste Collections sponsored by the county. For more information, visit [www.willcountygreen.com](http://www.willcountygreen.com).

*Continued on next page....*

*Answer:* In the unlikely event that a supplier could not deliver the contracted power, ComEd would provide and deliver power to the Village residents. The Illinois Commerce Commission reviews all power suppliers to ensure that they can meet the demand. NIMEC and other energy consultants continue to work with the Illinois Power Agency and the ICC to adopt rules which will alleviate these concerns.

**Question: If aggregation means lower energy costs for customers, won't ComEd simply increase charges on the distribution side to protect its profit margin?**

*Answer:* ComEd owns the distribution system only, and so does not realize profits or losses from the sale of energy. ComEd has worked for several years with large commercial and industrial customers who have switched to third-party energy suppliers, and remains supportive of other customers who switch to third-party suppliers. In other words, there will be no impact on distribution rates. Per ICC regulations, ComEd cannot introduce any separate distribution fees on cities that aggregate.

Once again the Village does not profit from Community Choice Aggregation. We, as a governmental organization, are trying to take advantage of the new law to benefit our residents and small business and save them money



## *Announcing the New Lenox Police Department's Third Annual Food Drive*

Chief Bob Sterba is proud to announce the police department's third annual food drive. With the active participation of New Lenox School District 122, the department will be leading an effort to impress upon the youth of our village the value of service to community. Altruism is a value by which we serve others without an expectation of repayment or thought of self-interest. This challenge will not only help fill our local food pantries but raise the consciousness of our children.

The food drive will commence on March 14, 2011 and conclude on April 15 2011. Drop off points for those members of the public who wish to participate will be:

The New Lenox Village Hall, Chamber of Commerce Office,  
1 Veterans Parkway  
New Lenox Police Department, 701 W. Haven  
New Fire Protection District, Fire Station One, 261 E. Maple  
New Lenox Park District, 1 Manor Drive

This effort will be replicated this Fall in the form of a coat drive. Both drives have become annual events coordinated by our Community Services division and our School Resource Officer with the generous cooperation of New Lenox School District 122.

## *Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Foundation*

As part of last Fall's Vehicle Sticker Contest, the Village pledged to promote the winning student's school and its foundation. Our 2011 vehicle sticker was designed by a student from Lincoln-Way Central, and the winning school's foundation is Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Foundation. The mission of the Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Foundation is to creatively generate financial support with which to enrich and enhance the opportunities and educational experiences of Lincoln-Way High School District 210 students. The Foundation is committed to serving our community by funding programs and donating items that touch the lives of as many students as possible

We invite residents wishing to make a tax-deductible donation to the Lincoln-Way District 210 Foundation to fill out the following form, detach from the newsletter, and mail with their contributions to: Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Foundation for Educational Excellence, 1801 E. Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, IL 60451.

### **LINCOLN-WAY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 210 FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

*Please make checks payable and mail to:*

Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Foundation for Educational Excellence,  
1801 E. Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, IL 60451.

Amount of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_