



NEW LENOX

# VILLAGER

## Village Adopts 2018 Comprehensive Plan

Following a nearly two-year process, the Village Board adopted the 2018 Comprehensive Plan at the November 26, 2018 meeting. The Orland Park firm Ginkgo Planning and Design led a consultant team working with Village officials, staff, and a steering committee representing many facets of the community to develop the Plan. The 2018 Comprehensive Plan represents the Village's vision for the future, and will help guide the Plan Commission and Village Board in evaluating development proposals and prioritizing public projects.



The 2018 Comprehensive Plan began with a market analysis to determine the need for land for various land uses, including retail, residential, industrial, and office. A fiscal analysis was also performed to confirm that the recommended mix of land uses would generate sufficient revenues to support Village services.

In addition to recommending certain land uses for all of the land in the Village and surrounding unincorporated areas, the 2018 Comprehensive Plan includes more detailed plans for three sub-areas. The Downtown District Plan focuses on the redevelopment of land along U.S. Route 30. A key element of the Downtown District is the creation of a creekside park along Hickory Creek at Cedar Road. The Silver Cross District Plan includes land near the I-355 and U.S. Route 6 interchange. This sub-area plan creates a roadway framework for connecting future developments, while the land uses remain flexible to respond to changes in market demand. Finally, the Laraway Station District Plan is concentrated on land near Laraway and Cedar Roads. This sub-area plan recommends a roadway framework to break up the large, undeveloped parcels into smaller blocks that could be developed with commercial and residential uses complimentary to the Laraway Road Metra Station.

The Village extends its appreciation to all of the residents and business owners who submitted comments and suggestions through the project website and at the three public meetings held throughout the process. The Village looks forward to implementing elements of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan over the next ten years.

## Thank You for Shopping Local During the "Shift Your Shopping" Week

The Village and Chamber of Commerce wish to thank all residents who took the time to shop at the 29 local businesses that participated in the 2018 "Shift Your Shopping" marketing promotion. We know that residents have

many other in-store and online shopping opportunities during the holiday season and appreciate that local businesses were patronized as a result of the promotion. Survey results from participating businesses are that 50% of the businesses received more customers from the promotion. We ask residents to continue to shop local and appreciate the support of businesses in the Village.

The next marketing program, "Bring on Spring," is planned for May 2019. We look forward to presenting more local businesses as we prepare for warmer weather and spring celebrations.



## 2019 Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health & Safety Expo

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Village of New Lenox, in partnership with the New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition and their collaborative partners, are proud to announce the 2019 New Lenox Severe Weather Spotter Training / Health and Safety Expo. The event will be held on Tuesday April 30, 2019 at Lincoln-Way West High School, 21701 Gougar Road New Lenox, IL 60451 in the Performing Arts Center.

The **FREE Health and Safety Expo** will be held from 5:00pm to 7:00pm just outside the Performing Arts Center. Visit approximately 50 organizations from the health, safety, fitness, preparedness and emergency response industries. Attendees will have the opportunity to receive free literature, giveaways, and health screenings while visiting the tables.

The **FREE Severe Weather Spotter Training** will be held from 7:00pm to approximately 8:30pm. The training provides those in attendance with information about what to look for during severe weather season. Attendees will learn about:

- Thunderstorms – lightning, hail, damaging winds, flash flooding and tornadoes;
- Facts and myths about severe weather hazards that impact our area;
- Advisories, watches, and warnings;
- How and where weather spotters can report information from the safety of their homes; and
- Steps that can be taken to prepare for severe weather.

This program is perfect for students (middle school and up), parents, scouting groups, amateur radio operators, emergency services, public works, police, fire, schools and anyone else wishing to learn about severe weather.

For additional information about the event, contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, (815) 462-6493 or dmartin@newlenox.net.

## Village Officials

- Timothy Baldermann / Mayor
- Laura Zilinskas / Village Clerk
- Annette Bowden / Trustee
- David Butterfield / Trustee
- Douglas Finnegan / Trustee
- Jasen Howard / Trustee
- Keith Madsen / Trustee
- David Smith / Trustee
- Kurt T. Carroll / Village Administrator

## Inside This Issue

Village Adopts Comprehensive Plan	1
Shift Your Shopping Week	1
Severe Weather Spotter Training	1
Christmas in the Commons	2
Welcome Winter	2
Who's New In Town	3
New Establishments	3
Parkway Tree Trimming	3
Tower Based Reading System	4
Preventing Sewer Problems	4

## Village Meeting Dates

**Village Board Meetings:** Second and fourth Monday of each month at 7pm  
**Council of the Whole Meetings:** Third Monday of each month at 7pm  
**Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals:** First and third Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

All meetings are held in the Village Council Chambers at the Village Hall.

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.

## New Lenox Village Hall

1 Veterans Parkway  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
815.462.6400  
Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm

[www.newlenox.net](http://www.newlenox.net)

## Christmas in the Commons

The Village of New Lenox was proud to once again host Christmas in the Commons in December, featuring its dazzling holiday light display, including the largest light up Santa in all of the United States as it's main attraction!

All of the festivities began with the Annual Kick-Off Celebration on Sunday, December 2nd. Despite a chilly, rainy day, a large crowd still came out to enjoy all there was to offer including our 2nd Annual Holiday Market, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, performances by local musical groups and skating on not one, but two synthetic skating rinks. Trinity Services also



opened up their building to host many holiday activities including visits from Disney's Frozen characters Anna, Elsa and Kristoff, games and crafts and raffles for both children and adults.

If it weren't for the help and cooperation of staff and multiple other groups, the continuation of this event would not be possible. Thank you to C.E.R.T, E.S.D.A, the New Lenox Park District

and Friends of the Park, the New Lenox Community Television team, the New Lenox Police Department, the New Lenox Public Library, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Fleckenstein's Bakery, TCBY, Old Plank Trail Community Bank, Trinity Services and all of our staff and student volunteers. Thank you as well to all of the amazing groups who performed during the event, including the Lincoln Way West Madrigals, the Liberty Junior High Madrigals, Lincoln-Way Area Chorale, St. Jude Music Ministry and Bell Choir and the Martino Junior High Madrigals.

Our Christmas in the Commons event continued after the Kick-Off, each Saturday and Sunday of December before Christmas. On top of the Holiday Market, we welcomed many new events and activities this year, including Craft Beer Tastings featuring local breweries, Santa visits each weekend, horse-drawn wagon rides, visits from Mickey and Minnie, Elf on the Shelf, Buddy the Elf, The Grinch and Anna and Elsa, a holiday "Sweets and Treats" sale featuring local businesses, performances by the Lamplight Singers, Touch-A-Truck from the New Lenox Fire Protection District and MUCH more! Another huge thank you to all businesses and vendors for participating in our ever-growing event!



All of our Christmas in the Commons activities would not be possible without the support of our sponsors: Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Spaceco, Friends of the Park, Silver Cross Hospital, Strand Associates, Lincoln-Way Community Bank, Kurtz Memorial Chapel, State Farm: Kathy Miller, Image360, Burns Photography, and Dunkin' Donuts.

We hope that all of the New Lenox residents and neighbors who came out to the Village Commons during this holiday season enjoyed all of the new activities that we had to offer! We appreciate your support and we look forward to seeing you again in 2019!

Happy New Year!



## Welcome, Winter 2019!

Well, we may as well embrace it since it's here! January isn't all bad, the shortest day of the year is officially behind us. From here on in, the mornings will slowly but surely get lighter and evenings longer, daffodils and tulips will bloom, gardens will spring back to life, and temperatures will lift..... eventually. But until then, we have to deal with winter weather, and with that means snow. The Village's primary objective is keeping roads and highways free from snow and ice through our plowing and salting operations. You can help by keeping vehicles off the streets and roads during a snow storm and by depositing snow from private drives and walkways on your own property, and not on Village streets.

### Depositing Snow in the Roadway

Please be advised, the practice of shoveling or blowing snow from private driveways into the public roadways is prohibited. These frozen snow piles create a hazard to traffic and make subsequent snow removal efforts difficult. Village code provides for ticketing violators of this ordinance. We ask that when clearing your driveway and walkways, place the snow in your yard or in the parkway. Our snow plow drivers try to minimize any excess snow plow windrowing into cleared driveways, however, the plowing process regrettably pushes some snow back into cleared drives. Depositing snow back to the streets simply adds more to your drive after the next plowing cycle. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding by keeping private drive snow off public streets.

### Street Parking

In order to effectively clear all streets, vehicles parked on the roadways must be removed. Failure to clear the entire road hinders further removal of snow and presents a hazard with the remaining snow once it freezes. With a forecast of 2" or more, ALL vehicles must be removed from the street. It's advisable to remove your vehicle as soon as it begins to snow for any winter storm and keep in mind with overnight parking, it may snow while you are sleeping and the snow plows are already out. Village code provides for ticketing or towing of vehicles in violation of this ordinance.

### Reporting Damage

While Village crews do their best to avoid hitting mailboxes, sometimes Village plows damage a mailbox while clearing the streets of snow and ice. Any mailbox that is damaged by the Village during snow removal operations will be repaired or replaced with a temporary mailbox as soon as possible following the storm. If you incur damage from a plow please contact the Village's offices at (815) 462-6400 or Public Works at (815) 215-4800. Please do not address questions, concerns or damage to the plow truck drivers directly. Approaching the trucks or climbing on the trucks is unsafe especially in the slippery winter conditions.

### Snow Removal Priority

Priority 1: Main thoroughfares, high volume areas and potentially dangerous areas such as railroad crossings, school zones, curves, bridges and intersections.

Priority 2: Secondary and residential streets.

Priority 3: Cul-de-sacs and dead-ends will be the last areas plowed.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation in keeping New Lenox streets and roads safe in 2019.



## Who's New in Town

**Chipotle Mexican Grill**, 641 E. Lincoln Hwy. (on west end of new strip mall in front of Walmart). Website: <https://www.chipotle.com/>. OPEN NOW.

**Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant**, 2307 E. Lincoln Hwy., (west of Five Guys Restaurant on Route 30 & Vancina Lane). Website: <https://chwinery.com/>. OPEN NOW.

**Grayt Finds**, 354 W. Maple St. (in the plaza with Whitmore Ace Hardware and JDB White Horse Inn) is occupying the space formerly occupied by New Lenox Mail & Parcel. Grayt Finds offers home décor and gifts from local artisans, wood signs, painted furniture, jewelry, soaps, and miscellaneous décor. OPEN NOW.

**Kay Jewelers**, 515 E. Lincoln Hwy. (in strip mall in front of Walmart next to Mathnasium). Website: <https://stores.kay.com/il/new-lenox/515-e--lincoln-highway.html>. OPEN NOW.

**Menard Automotive**, 12600 Old Plank Drive (located east of Schoolhouse Road). Automotive and truck-related repairs are being offered. Contact (815) 325-7975. OPEN NOW.

**Quen-Tel Communications Service, Inc.** (home-based business). Quen-Tel installs electric for surround sound or intercom systems. Contact (815) 463-1800. OPEN NOW.

**Simply Suite Music LLC**, 328 E. Lincoln Hwy. (located in Victorian Mansion on the south side of Route 30 and east of the viaduct). Piano, voice, and guitar music lessons are offered both to groups and in private lessons for children, teens, and adults. Website: [www.simplysuitemusic.com](http://www.simplysuitemusic.com). OPEN NOW.

**Wennlund & Associates**, 339 Alana Drive (on the north side of Route 30 across the street from the plaza with Whitmore Ace Hardware and Fleckenstein's Bakery). Donald Cass Wennlund, Esq. recently opened a law office at this location. Contact (815) 485-3676. OPEN NOW.

## Look Forward to These Establishments

**Barre Burla LLC/The Barre Code** New Lenox, 2544 E. Lincoln Hwy. (in the former tenant space that was occupied in Bluestone Commons by Super Cuts, west of Starbuck's). The Barre Code is a group fitness studio specializing in HIIT (high intensity interval training), Restore and Barre training (both of which are full body workouts), and Kickboxing classes. There will be a Kids Care Room for children as parents work out. [www.thebarrecode.com](http://www.thebarrecode.com). Tentative Opening: Late February 2019.

**CVS**, 115 E. Maple St. (northeast corner of Route 30 and Cedar Road). Website: <https://www.cvs.com/>. Tentative Opening: Mid-February 2019.

**Ktech d/b/a CPR Cell Phone Repair**, 1820 E. Lincoln Highway (in Hickory Creek Plaza on the south side of Route 30 and across the street from Lincoln Way Central High School). Repairs electronic consumer products, including but not limited to phone, personal computers, tablets, drones, and video game systems. The business will also sell used cell phones, used personal computers, and other electronics. Tentative Opening: January, 2019.

**MOD Pizza**, 651 E. Lincoln Hwy. (on east end of strip mall in front of Walmart). Website: <https://modpizza.com/>. Artisan-style pizzas and salads are individually sized, made on demand, and ready in just minutes. Tentative Opening: January 18, 2019.

**Simon Phillips**, 306 W. Maple St. (former Flirty on 30 Boutique). Men's hair salon that will sell shampoo and other hair products in addition to cutting and styling hair. Tentative Opening Date: March, 2019.

**Taylor Street Deli**, 701 E. Lincoln Hwy. (formerly occupied by Volver Mexican Grill in a strip mall east of Walmart) will offer deli, pastries, and liquor. Tentative Opening Date: February, 2019.

### Name Change

**Virtual Mortgage Solutions**, 1269 N. Cedar, Unit B (located in the strip mall by Ranch Frostie's on the southwest corner of Cedar and

Francis Roads), recently changed its name from Electra Mortgage. Virtual is a mortgage broker. Contact 815-463-9474.

### Relocation

**University Ground Fighting** is a fitness gym that was located in the Country Charm Plaza on Route 30, west of the Country Charm Restaurant. The gym, which relocated to 12540 Harvey Drive (off School House Road) offers Jiu-Jitsu and tumbling. Website: [www.uofgf.com](http://www.uofgf.com).

## Parkway Tree Trimming

Public Works plans on conducting parkway tree pruning in certain subdivisions throughout the village. The residents in these subdivisions shall be notified by letter via mail. The letters will contain information specific to this year's removal. This article is intended to inform the public and answer the most common questions about this service.

### Which trees will you be pruning?

Parkway trees are the trees located next to public streets, usually in between the sidewalk and road. In areas without sidewalk, the Village maintains trees in the Right-of-Way, which typically extends fifteen feet beyond the edge of the road.

### What is the purpose of tree pruning?

Trees are pruned to improve tree structure, increase crown growth, improve the look and shape of the tree, and maintain safe conditions in the parkway by providing adequate clearances over the road and sidewalk. Pruning is also a good opportunity to remove dead or diseased branches and to thin and space interior branches, which will allow the wind to pass through the tree more freely, decreasing the chance of damage during a storm.

### How much will each tree be pruned?

The amount of pruning varies for each individual parkway tree, based on tree species, size, and overall health. In general, small trees will require minor pruning to start shaping the tree for upward growth. Mature trees may also require only minor pruning, as the crowns are already high and provide clearance over the road and sidewalk. Trees with trunk diameters ranging from six to twelve inches usually require the most pruning, as the lower portion of their crowns typically conflict with road and sidewalk clearances.



*This picture shows a typical street after the parkway trees have been pruned.*



*This picture shows the same street after leaves have grown on the pruned parkway trees.*

### What are the clearances for the street and sidewalk? Why are branches pruned so high?

Parkway trees are pruned to allow fourteen feet of clearance in the street and eight feet of clearance over the sidewalk. This allows emergency vehicles, school buses, garbage trucks, snowplows, and Village Leaf Pick-up crews to get to the curb safely and unimpeded, and allows pedestrians and bicyclists to use the sidewalk safely. Properly pruning lower branches allows these clearances and encourages the tree to grow up and out rather than out and down. Since pruning only for these clearances would leave the tree lopsided, Village crews attempt to prune to uniform heights around the tree.

If you have additional questions or concerns about this service, please contact the New Lenox Public Works at (815) 215-4800.

## New Tower Based Meter Reading System

The Village of New Lenox recently installed a new tower-based meter reading system. This system allows us to read meters remotely without the need to drive by each resident's home. There are also many benefits to the residents. With the new system we are able to get on demand reads. As such residents can call us at any time and we will be able to provide current readings. We are also able to obtain hourly reads, which will tell residents when water was used and how much per hour. This new system also alerts the Village of New Lenox when excessive water is being used. We are then able to notify our residents that they may have a toilet running, a spigot left on, etc.

In order to receive these benefits, residents must have a newer meter installed. Your water meter is most often located in your basement, or crawl space. If you have a plastic looking meter, then you are all set. If you have a brass meter, we urge you to call Utility Billing at (815) 462-6440 to schedule an appointment to have a new meter installed. Once again, we do not receive alerts on the older meters.

If you have any questions regarding this new program, please call Public Works at (815) 215-4800.



OLD-REPLACE



NEW

## RPZ Survey and Inspections

As a reminder, all RPZ's need to be inspected and tested once a year by a certified backflow device inspector. This is mandated by the EPA, and the village will continue to enforce these rules. Thank you to all who had theirs tested last year. All residents who have an RPZ or backflow prevention device will be receiving a reminder later from BSI to have their device tested. BSI, from Worth, IL, is the company the Village has contracted to maintain our database. **ALL DEVICES MUST BE TESTED BY JUNE 1st OR JULY 1st**, depending on the due date in your letter. Failure to have your device inspected will result in service to your home being discontinued. If you choose not to have your device tested, you must cut and cap your sprinkler system. It must then be inspected by Village personnel. You can find more information on these policies at <http://www.newlenox.net/backflow>.



## Ferro Tower Rehabilitation

The Village of New Lenox recently had their water tower, located off of Ferro Drive, repaired and painted. This rehabilitation allows the Water Department to continue providing the high-quality drinking water you are accustomed to. Due to the weather, we were unable to have the Village of New Lenox logo painted on the side of the tower. Once the weather gets warmer in the spring, the logo will be painted.

## MXU Replacements

The Water Department will be replacing the MXU (Meter Transmitter Unit) on the outside of residents' homes beginning this winter. A Village employed technician will knock on your door to let you know they will be performing this work but you are not required to be home for this replacement. The replacement should take no more than 15 minutes and is part of the process to switch customers over to the tower-based reading system. If you have any questions regarding the replacement, please call Public Works at (815) 215-4800.

## Cedar Road Water Main Placement

The Village of New Lenox would like to thank all of the residents who were impacted during the Cedar Road Water Main Replacement project. This was a much-needed upgrade and will provide better service to the residents with fewer interruptions due to water main breaks. For those of you who live along North Cedar Road, we have a current list of all who did not get full landscape restorations. The full landscape restoration will take place in the spring. Feel free to call Public Works at (815) 215-4800 to add your name to the list if you have any dirt settling or other issues.

## Tips on Preventing Sewer Problems

In the Village of New Lenox, the homeowner is responsible for their sanitary service from their house until connection to the sewer main. The Village maintains the network of sewer mains that take the sewage to one of our 3 treatment plants. A clog in a service line or a sewer main can cause sewage to back-up into your home. This can be a devastating experience. To help reduce the risk of sewer back-ups in the Village's mains, we maintain a cleaning, inspection and repair program. A high-pressure sewer "jetter" is used to clean the lines and a mainline camera is used to inspect the lines. Repair work is either done in-house or contracted out based on cost effectiveness.



## To Protect Your Property from Sewage Back-Ups, Follow These Rules:

### DO NOT

- Pour grease, fats and oils from cooking down the drain.
- Use the sewer to dispose of food scraps, baby wipes, diapers and personal hygiene products.
- Dispose of chemicals down the drain or toilet. Chemicals can kill "good" bacteria used for sewage treatment, cost much more to treat and could enter the creek.
- Plant trees near your sewer lateral. Tree roots seek water sources and can penetrate cracks or separated joints in your service line.
- Connect your sump pump or gutter downspouts to the sewer system, this can cause the sewer system to become overloaded and back-up into your home. It is also an ordinance violation.

### DO

- Call the Village first if you believe you have a sewer back-up.
- Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Place food scraps, baby wipes, diapers and personal hygiene products in your regular garbage.

## Additional Tips:

- If you know you have roots in your service line have them cut out regularly by a licensed plumber.
- For additional protection, an ejector pit with a check valve can be installed in your basement. The village also offers a cost sharing program for ejector pit installations, call for details.

The sewer department is available 24/7 - 365. Any time you suspect a sewer issue, call the Village first to determine if the problem is located in the sewer main or your service line. During normal business hours you can call Public Works at (815) 215-4800. If your issue occurs after normal hours you can call the Village's non-emergency number (815) 485-2500 and an employee will contact you.