



NEW LENOX

VILLAGER

NEW METRA STATION OPENS

The New Lenox Metra Station on the Rock Island line is substantially complete and now open to the public. The 2,300-square foot building at 201 Prairie Road was designed by Tria Architecture and built by John Burns Construction Company. Christopher B. Burke Engineering was the civil engineer for the project, which also included the reconfiguration of the parking lots to maximize the number of parking spaces and improve traffic circulation.

Construction of the new station building began in February 2020. Due to low ridership as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the parking lot work was able to be completed ahead of schedule and with little disruption to commuters. Landscaping will be completed in Spring 2021.

The New Lenox Metra Station includes a ticket office, waiting area, and 24-hour warming shelter. The building was designed to accommodate a food and/or beverage vendor in the future. The new station is located further east than the original station that was located just east of Cedar Road. The new station location and longer platform are now far enough from Cedar Road that the gates will not have to block traffic the entire time eastbound trains are at the station, a benefit for drivers, too.



A new "pay by plate" system has also been installed, and will be launched on April 5, 2021. The price of parking is still \$1.25 per day. Commuters will purchase a pay card and load funds at one of the new pay stations located throughout the site. Commuters will have to swipe their cards and enter their license plates. While use of the pay cards is encouraged, commuters can also pay by cash or credit card. No more pay boxes and having to remember the number of your parking space!

Funding for the project came from several sources. Metra provided a grant and also completed the work on the new platform. The State of Illinois also provided a grant, with the remaining funding coming from Village General Obligation Bonds. The project was completed under budget. The New Lenox Metra Station will be an asset to the community for years to come.



NELSON ROAD WATER TOWER PAINTING

This spring the Village is having the water tower on Nelson Road repainted in addition to numerous structural improvements. A temporary tower has been erected on-site to relocate the antennas that are currently on the water tower and will remain until the painting has been completed. Once the work is complete, antennas will be moved back to the water tower and the temporary tower will be removed. We anticipate the project beginning on or around May 3rd and taking no longer than 75 days to complete, depending on the weather. If anyone has questions or concerns regarding this project, please call Public Works at (815) 215-4800.



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

New Lenox Metra Station Opens	1
Nelson Road Water Tower Painting	1
Spotlight on the Public Works Street Department	2
Improperly/Illegally Connected Sump Pumps	2
Spring Leaf Collection	3
Branch Pick-Up	3
Tips from the New Lenox Police	3
Now Open	4
New Owners	4
Relocation	4
Bring On Spring is Coming	4
Go Green for Earth Day	4
Narcan® Training	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

SPOTLIGHT ON THE PUBLIC WORKS "STREET DEPARTMENT"

Efforts of the Public Works Street Department are sometimes obvious while others are not. Everyone is familiar with and appreciates the snow plows salting and plowing during a snow storm or having a pothole filled, but the Street Department is entwined in all areas of the Village.

With over 130 miles of Village roads and accompanying guardrails, pavement markings, curbs, sidewalks, culverts, ditches, signs, streetlights, and right-of-way's, the Street Department is constantly assessing areas of concern, scheduling work, all the while being conscious of routine maintenance and budget costs. But if you ever wondered who responds to the dead animals in the street, damaged railroad delineators, graffiti, un-even sidewalks, mosquito spraying, abandoned trash, right-of-way mowing, drainage issues, parkway tree trimming or the removal of dead parkway trees or underground infrastructure, it's the Street Department. Have you ever noticed the local business banners or the American Flags that fly from Memorial Day to Veterans day on the streetlights on Route 30? Yes, that's the Street Department too.

The extremely popular Branch Pick-Up Program, Curbside Leaf Pick-Up Program, and the 50/50 Tree Replacement Program are also responsibilities of the Street Department. 792 requested work orders were entered in 2020 between April-October for regular Branch Pick-Up, and hundreds more occurred when the August 10th Derecho storm hit and a 3-week constant clean-up went into effect for residents and businesses alike. In addition, when neighboring communities are in need of assistance after a tornado or natural disaster, the Street Department steps up and has offered man power and equipment to aid in their relief efforts.

All events at the Village Commons, whether it's Wednesday Night Movie Night, the Car Show, Fridays at Five, Christmas in the Commons, Ladies Night Out, or the Triple Play Concerts, the Street Department is involved in working to set-up, take down, and clean-up these events. From setting up and taking down Santa Claus to building the manger scene to constructing the storybook holders for the library, the Street Department's efforts at the Commons can be seen year-round.

The Street Department Crews are on high alert during the winter season, ready to be called out anytime of the day or night to start the plowing efforts, or assist in any storm related incident. There are twenty-two plow routes assigned to crews and the Village is equipped with twenty 2½-ton trucks and two 1-ton trucks. An anticipated amount of salt is ordered in early fall, but Mother Nature decides that number in the end, as anything can happen! 2,800 tons of salt were used in 2019-2020, and thus far over 4,700 tons of salt have been used for this current 2020-2021 winter season.

From high water levels during heavy rains or rescuing baby ducklings who have fallen through a storm grate, this department responds to every request regardless of the severity. To date, the Street Department has already surpassed the number of work orders received compared to the same date last year, which means another very busy year for the Street Department. 2020 was a record-breaking year with over 2,500 separate work orders entered and over 6,000 calls directly responded to by the Public Works Department.

The New Lenox Public Works Department is proud of the fact that in January, 2020 they earned the honor of being 'An Accredited Public Works Agency'. Earning this elite recognition was an intensive process which took over 3 years to accomplish and is only given to those agencies who meet over 500 qualifications of the APWA (American Public Works Association). New Lenox is one of the 156 recipients in the United States and the 8th in the State of Illinois to receive this award.

The Department's Core Value Statement reads as such: *To provide the residents of New Lenox with the highest quality, most efficient service through communication and teamwork between departments. Our priorities are both safety of the public and leading the community to a better tomorrow by continuously striving to enhance the quality-of-life of the people who live, work, and a conduct business in the Village.*

In other words: "Go the Extra Mile, There Will Be No Traffic"!



IMPROPERLY / ILLEGALLY CONNECTED SUMP PUMPS

Sump pumps that are connected to the sanitary collection system are considered illegally connected (Village Ordinance, sec. 94-33 Discharge of unpolluted water). The Village of New Lenox sanitary sewer system is not designed to handle sump pump flow. The additional flow from sump pumps hydraulically overloads the system and causes water to back up into people's homes, causing damage and devastation to your fellow neighbors or even yourself.

Where should your sump pump discharge?

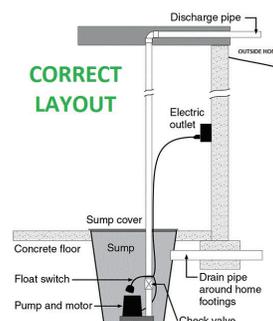
Sump pumps should discharge outside your home to a location where the water will flow away from your house while not being a nuisance to your neighbor's property. This can be done with a simple sump pump hose, but if you're worried about aesthetics, a buried drain tile ran to a yard discharge would also be adequate.

In some areas a storm sewer may be close enough for you to connect to. Public Works can evaluate whether that is an option for you. If feasible and requested, the Village will run a connection point from the Village's storm sewer into your yard for you to connect to.

Not sure if your sump pump is illegally connected?

If you would like to talk to a wastewater employee about your sump pump or have an inspection we would be more than happy to meet with you. Please call Public Works at (815) 215-4800 to schedule an appointment or inquire about a storm water connection.

The sewer department is available 24/7, 365 days per year. Anytime 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 non-emergency number (815) 485-2500 and an employee will contact you.



SPRING 2021 LEAF COLLECTION PROGRAM

The Leaf Collection Program for residents will begin **Monday, April 5th, 2021**. The Village will send out



leaf collection equipment and vacuum your leaves from your parkway. Residents must place the leaves in the parkway and not on the street. Please see below for the correct and incorrect ways to place the leaves.

Crews will start at the beginning of the week on the north side of town and work their way south. The goal is to collect the leaves at least once a week.

Please follow these helpful guidelines to ensure that this service will operate quickly, safely and efficiently:

- Place leaves on the parkway parallel to the street and immediately behind the curb or the edge of pavement. Leaves **must not** be placed in the street or in the curb/gutter. If the leaves are placed in the street or gutter, they have a greater chance of blowing and will obstruct the flow of storm water and cause street flooding during rain events.
- **Do not** include any debris such as garden materials, brush, cans, paper, bottles, etc. These foreign materials can cause damage to leaf collection personnel and equipment.
- **Do not** place leaves behind obstacles such as: parked vehicles, trees, mailboxes, fire hydrants, streetlights, etc.

The Village's free leaf collection program will end **Friday, April 16th, 2021**.

Alternative Options are also encouraged. In some neighborhoods where trees are not mature, utilizing a mulching lawn mower adds the leaves back into the lawn - providing nutrients to the soil. **Nu-Way will also pick-up leaves placed in the Kraft-type paper bags free of charge for 2-weeks.** This service will likely be performed on April 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th, whichever dates fall on your regularly scheduled garbage pick-up day. Check the Village website for exact dates as April nears.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions please call the Public Works Department at (815) 215-4800.

BRANCH PICK-UP

The Village of New Lenox Public Works Department offers a Branch-Pick-up Program **April 6th through October 19th**. Depending on the weather, crews will be dispatched on the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month**.



Please follow these helpful guidelines to ensure that this service will operate quickly and efficiently:

- Residents need to contact the Public Works Department by calling (815) 215-4800 to be placed on the list **each time** they need a pick-up.
- Materials that **WILL NOT** be picked up include but are not limited to railroad ties, wood telephone poles, construction material, lumber, stones, roots or root balls, vines, dirt, nails and metal. These materials will damage our equipment and present unsafe conditions for Village crews and the general public.
- Branches must be placed in the parkway as crews will not encroach on private property to remove branches.
- Please **DO NOT** tie or bundle branches.
- Please place branches with thorns in a separate pile.
- Only branches 1 inch in diameter or larger will be picked up, as

smaller materials do not go through the chipper properly. The Maximum diameter size is 12 inches.

- When placing the branches in the parkway, do not block the sidewalk, streetlight base, fire hydrants, or manholes.
- Place the cut ends of the branches towards the street.
- For longer branches that may block the sidewalk, we will require the cut ends of the branches be pointing to the left side of your property as you face your property from the curb. When the chipper pulls up to your home, the chipper opening will be facing the cut ends of the branches. This allows our crews to load the branches safely and efficiently.

For any storms with wind gusts reaching 50mph and storms declared a disaster, the Village will be out patrolling the town for damage. We recommend that residents still call to schedule a branch pick-up where the above guidelines would apply to ensure we don't miss you.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a pick up, please call the Public Works Department at (815) 215-4800.

TIPS FROM THE NEW LENOX POLICE DEPARTMENT TO KEEP YOUR HOMES AND VEHICLES SAFE



It's that time of year again when the sun shines a little longer each day, the milder weather makes it almost impossible to stay inside the house, and unfortunately, thieves increase their nighttime "shopping" activities. Though New Lenox is a very safe place to live, we are not immune to the potential for opportunistic thieves to make their way out to our community. Recently, agencies in the Lincoln-Way area have seen an uptick in theft from and of vehicles. Most occur outside private homes in driveways or on the street in front of the victim's home. Thefts from vehicles can be drastically reduced if people lock their car doors and stop leaving valuables inside their vehicles. Leaving items on display, whether in or on a dashboard or in a mounted cradle, or sitting on the passenger seat, is an open invitation to opportunist criminals. Here are some valuable tips to keep your vehicles secure:

- Always keep your valuables out of sight or in the trunk
- Never leave valuables unattended in vehicles
- Never leave your key fob in your vehicle
- Always lock your vehicle

Don't forget your homes are potential targets, as well. Here are some valuable tips to keep them secure:

- Always keep your garage door closed (even if you are just out back mowing the lawn)
- Never leave the front of your house open or unattended
- Always double check your service doors at night
- Keep your garage door opener out of sight
- Use outdoor lighting – porch and motion lights help deter crime

Finally, get involved! Be your neighbor's eyes and ears. Talk to neighbors regarding activity in the neighborhood. By becoming familiar with those who live in your neighborhood, you can help reduce crime. Take some very simple precautions and just a few moments to remove valuable items from your car, and you can significantly improve your chances of not becoming a victim of this type of crime. We can work together to keep our community safer and a great place to live.



NOW OPEN

Basteen Chiropractic 305 Vine Street (inside MVP Chiropractic's office) offers chiropractic services including examination and treatment of patients. 815-717-6483 <https://mvpchiro.com/locations/mvp-chiropractic-new-lenox/>

Clutter, Inc. 501 E. Lincoln Highway (inside Walmart) is a retail moving supply store. 815-215-2008 <https://www.clutter.com/>

Dr. Kelly Hird & Psychological Associates 305 Vine Street (across the street from the U.S. Post Office) is a clinical psychology private practice that offers individual psychotherapy services. <https://www.drkellyhird.com/>

KLM Engineering 338 Alana Drive KLM is a specialty consulting firm that focuses on potable water tower maintenance. 651-238-4905 <https://klmengineering.com/>

Metro Infusion Center 519 E. Lincoln Highway (in plaza with Jersey Mike's and Kay Jewelers) provides therapy through the administration of IVs when a patient is not responding to oral medication or requires intensive attention. 630-254-4201 (appt. are referral-based) <https://metroinfusioncenter.com/>

MJ Carpentry is a home-based construction office which performs work at clients' homes. Services provided are the construction of decks, hanging and repairing drywall, framing wood materials, various remodeling tasks, and carpentry-related handyman services. Contact 815-302-7420 or mjcarpentryllc@aol.com.

OCO Studios (home-based business), offers fashion styling services and image consultancy. Website: www.ocostudios.com/services (contact through website).

Studio Male (inside Studio 10 Suites), 278 E. Lincoln Highway is a men's hair salon which provides hair cutting & styling, waxing, hair color, kids' haircutting, and retail sales. Website: <https://www.vagaro.com/studiomale/> Phone: 815-716-4233.



NEW OWNERS

Beast Training Academy 2465 E. Joliet Highway (in the same plaza as Bulldog Alehouse). The services offered are fitness classes with a concentration on adult and youth fitness training. The new owners acquired the business on March 1, 2021. 815-616-6721 www.beasttrainingacademy.com



RELOCATION

New Lenox Village Printery is now a home-based business. Business printing services, e.g., forms, envelopes, and business cards are offered. <http://nlvp.net/> (contact through website).

"BRING ON SPRING" IS COMING - May 1st through May 8th

The Village and the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce are once again co-hosting the "Bring on Spring" marketing promotion for local, small businesses in the Village. The promotion ends the day before Mother's Day, allows for graduation gifts to be purchased in advance, and may encourage home improvement projects. We anticipate there to be many choices to make from retailers offering discounts and specials. Please be on the lookout for a brochure in the *Herald News* in the May 1st weekend edition as well as the brochure listed on the Village's and Chamber's websites and social media pages. We can all do our part to improve the local economy by shopping at New Lenox establishments!



GO GREEN FOR EARTH DAY 2021!

Together we can help protect our environment and create a healthy and sustainable world for future generations. Earth Day is a time to celebrate our Earth and bring awareness to environmental protection. Earth Day has been celebrated every year on April 22nd since 1970, making 2021 the holiday's 51st birthday! The holiday is celebrated all over the world, as there have been events held in 193 countries.



While we may not be able to attend any formal Earth Day celebrations this year, we can still commemorate and participate in Earth Day 2021! Some activities you can do at home are:

- Practice the four "Rs" – Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle!
- Plant a tree! They help absorb carbon dioxide.
- Plant a vegetable garden! It's great for the environment and is a great way to bring fresh vegetables straight to your table.
- Take a 5-minute or less shower to conserve water!
- Water your lawn only when necessary. Grass grows better when well-watered once a week and not every day!
- Bike or walk to the store or work! It's not only healthy for you but also helps shrink your carbon footprint.
- Use reusable grocery bags to help reduce the negative effects that plastic bags have on the environment!
- Reduce food waste by planning meals, being creative with leftovers or by composting!
- Instead of wrapping paper, wrap in unused cloth or newspaper. Use the recipe section of the newspaper – another part of the gift!
- Look for alternatives to buying products in plastic containers! Use bar soap instead of soap in a plastic container. There are laundry detergents that are available without plastic.
- Pick up litter you see to help keep our community clean!

Check out New Lenox's "Going Green at Home" page and Earthday.org for more information on how to take action today

FREE NARCAN® (NALOXONE) TRAINING

The New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition, in partnership with the Will County Executive's Office, is offering FREE Narcan® training on Monday, April 19, 2021 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, [via Zoom](https://www.zoom.us).

Narcan® (Naloxone) is a medicine that blocks the effects of opioids and reverses a drug overdose. The combination of training and having a Narcan® Nasal Spray Kit can save a life!

Dr. Kathleen Burke, Director of Will County Office of Substance Use Initiatives, will be the instructor for this class. Dr. Burke will also provide everyone in attendance with a Narcan® Nasal Spray Kit, upon completion of the training. Arrangements for the pick-up of the kits will be announced during the Zoom videoconference.

For additional questions or to register, contact Daniel Martin, Safe Community Coordinator, Village of New Lenox, via email dmartin@newlenox.net or by phone (815) 462-6493.

