



NEW LENOX

VILLAGER

CHRISTMAS IN THE COMMONS



Residents and visitors were invited to experience the magic of the holiday season at the 2023 Christmas in the Commons events. On Saturdays and Sundays throughout the month, the New Lenox Village Commons came alive with activities and entertainment, all set against the backdrop of a dazzling display of holiday lights.

These events would not be possible without the time and dedication of an incredible number of people and organizations, including (but not limited to) Village of New Lenox staff, C.E.R.T., E.S.D.A., and the New Lenox Community Park District. Additional thanks to our incredibly generous sponsors! We are extremely grateful to have such outstanding support from so many wonderful people, and we appreciate each and every person who assisted with these events.

We hope that all of the New Lenox residents and neighbors who came out to the Commons during the holiday season enjoyed the festivities that were brought to the village. We look forward to seeing you again in 2024!

EARLY VOTING FOR THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Mark your calendars! The General Primary Election is on March 19, 2024. Early voting for this election starts March 4, 2024 and runs through March 15, 2024, from 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday. It will be located in the Community Room on the lower level of Village Hall. Same-day registration will also be offered during early voting. To register, two forms of identification, one listing your current address, must be presented. For more information, visit our website or call the Village Hall at 815-462-6400 with any questions.



THE CITIZENS' ACADEMY WRAP-UP



The first Citizens' Academy was a huge success! The program finished on November 13th, 2023 after the Village Board recognized participants for their dedication to learning more about the different taxing districts that serve New Lenox. Over the course of 8 weeks, our wonderful residents listened to fun, interactive presentations from the Village of New Lenox, New Lenox Fire Protection District, New Lenox Community Park District, New Lenox School District 122, Lincoln-Way High School District 210, and the New Lenox Public Library District. Everyone loved how informative, interesting, and helpful the program was overall. They also admired how prepared, knowledgeable, transparent, and passionate all the presenters were about their respective agencies. Some highlights from the program include the Park District field trip to the Sanctuary golf course, putting out a fire with the Fire District, fingerprinting at the Police Department, and going on tours of all the different buildings. Not only did the participating residents learn more about each department and agency and how they all work together, but they had fun while doing it! In the end, our attendees left the program feeling empowered and inspired to become better, more involved citizens. They all had a wonderful experience and would highly recommend the program to anyone interested. To learn more about the Citizens' Academy, please contact Alaina Murphy at 815-462-6417 or amurphy@newlenox.net.

HAINES AVE. & KIMBER DRIVE WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT

The Village of New Lenox would like to thank all of the residents who were impacted during the Haines Ave. and Kimber Dr. Water Main Replacement

Village Officials

- Timothy Baldermann / Mayor
- Laura Zilinskas / Village Clerk
- Katie Christopherson / Trustee
- Amy Gugliuzza / Trustee
- Keith Madsen / Trustee
- Lindsay Scalise / Trustee
- David Smith / Trustee
- Jim Wilson / Trustee
- Kurt T. Carroll / Village Administrator

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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 and the Village's website, www.newlenox.net/agenda

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

project. This was a much-needed upgrade and will provide better service to the residents with fewer interruptions due to water main breaks. 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.

NEW LENOX POLICE HOST ANNUAL SHOP-WITH-A-COP EVENT

On Saturday, December 9th, the New Lenox Police Department, along with the assistance of Morning Star Mission, held its annual Shop-with-a-Cop event.



The day began when two school buses full of approximately 50 children from the New Lenox area were provided a police escort from the police station to Walmart. The children were paired up with members of the NLPD and then treated to a shopping spree at the store. Each child was provided with a gift card and allowed to purchase Christmas gifts for themselves or for family members. The gift cards were compliments of Morning Star Mission.



The Shop-with-a-Cop event continued at the NLPD with a pizza party and gift wrapping.

When everyone was fed and full of cheer, the families of the children came to pick them up. Gift cards to a local grocery store were then provided to the families. These gift cards were purchased with money raised by New Lenox Police Officers throughout the year.

The New Lenox Police Department has been hosting Shop-with-a-Cop events for the past 15 years. The event is a wonderful opportunity to put a smile on a child's face and to build positive relationships between the officers and the children.

A great time was had by all!



TOWER-BASED METER READING SYSTEM

The Village of New Lenox has 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 can get on-demand reads, so you can call us at any time, and we will be able to give you your current read. We are also able to obtain hourly reads, which will be able to tell residents when water was used and how much per hour. This new system also alerts



New Meter



Old Meter

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.

SNOW REMOVAL 2023



When that first snowflake begins to fall or icing conditions are present the Public Works Department begins their plowing operations. Careful planning is essential in order to assure a timely response to winter

conditions. Public Works staff monitors weather conditions hourly when a snow fall is predicted. Crews are on alert and ready to be dispatched at any hour of the day or night.

REMINDER: Please do not plow, blow or shovel snow into the street. When snow is moved into the street, it not only hinders the efforts of Village crews who are trying to keep roadways clear, it also creates a safety hazard for other drivers. In addition, please remember when 2 inches or more of snow is forecasted, parking in the street is prohibited for a period of 24 hours or until the streets have been cleared of snow. Keep in mind the snow may start falling in the middle of the night and the plows are already out, therefore its best to remove your vehicle from the street prior to the snowfall. Depositing snow and parking in the street during storm is a violation of Village Ordinances and can result in fines.

The Village encourages you to keep the sidewalks near your home clear of snow for the safety of children walking to school, bus stops and other pedestrians. Please consider assisting neighbors who may be unable to clear the sidewalks.

MAILBOX 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 Village plows during snow removal operations will be repaired or replaced with at temporary mailbox as soon as possible following the storm. If you incur damage from a plow please contact Public Works at 815 215-4800 so your address is documented, which provides proper reimbursement information to be mailed out in the spring (*Non-Compliant Mailboxes are not eligible for spring reimbursement*).

Please do not approach any questions, concerns or damage you may have with the plow drivers directly. Approaching the trucks or climbing on the trucks is dangerous and interrupts the clean-up efforts.

The Public Works Department takes great pride in making sure all the roads within its jurisdiction are plowed and salted during a storm event. Please keep in mind that several state and local agencies other than the Village are responsible for snow removal within New Lenox as well.

Areas Village is **NOT** responsible for:

IDOT: 815-485-2504

All of Route 30
Washington Street

***Will County Highway: 815-727-8478**

Gougar Road (South of Route 6 to Laraway Rd)
South Cedar Road (South of Illinois Hwy)
N. Cedar Road (North of Route 6)
Schoolhouse Road (North of Route 30)
All of Francis Road

***Joliet IDOT: 815-722-1215**

All of Route 6

North Cedar between Francis and Route 6

New Lenox Township Highway Department: 815-485-6424
All Unincorporated Area's

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

IT'S LEAP YEAR!



Fun Fact

Did you know we owe leap years to Julius Caesar, and also to his successor, the Emperor Augustus?

The Ancient Romans used to follow a calendar that had 355 days a year, but it eventually grew hopelessly out of sync with the seasons, making it difficult to celebrate festivals at the same time each year. So, in 45 BC, Julius Caesar decreed that a new, reformed calendar would be adopted that had 365 days a year, with an extra day every "leap year" in order to keep the seasons and calendar properly in sync.

However, the Roman priests who devised the new calendar initially made a mistake. They set the leap year to occur every third year. The priests realized soon enough that this wouldn't work, and in 8 BC Emperor Augustus officially corrected the calendar so that leap years came every fourth year.

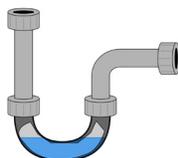
So, Caesar can take credit for leap years in general, but the four-year tradition is Augustus.

And have you ever wondered why February is shorter than every other month? That's also because of Augustus. The Roman Senate, to honor him, renamed the month of Sextilis as Augustus (August). But originally August was only 30 days long, and this was a problem because Julius Caesar's month (July) was 31 days long. It wouldn't do for Augustus to have a shorter month than Caesar!

To make August as long as July they borrowed a day from February, reducing it from 30 days during a leap year to only 29, and 28 days every other year. This permanently left February as the odd, shortened month that it is.

SEWER TIP: P-TRAP REFILL

Every year the Village of New Lenox receives calls about a sewer or rotten egg odor in residents' homes. The majority of the time it's a simple fix and something all residents can and should do on an annual basis at a minimum. And that is to fill your P-Traps.



What is a P-Trap?

A P-Trap is a plumbing connection that is designed to hold water so that sewer gas doesn't come into your homes. Sinks, tubs, floor drains and any other fixture that connects to your homes sewer drain system should have a P-Trap.

Why is it dry?

Most P-Traps in your home will stay filled because you use that sink, tub or drain on a daily basis. Those traps will never dry

out if used regularly. It's the drains that rarely get used that dry out. Oftentimes it's a basement shower, sink or utility sink that people don't use on a regular basis will dry out and let sewer gas into the home.

Just add water!

The simplest solution to rarely used drains is to just add some water. Run the shower or sink for a minute and that will refill your P-trap and stop those sewer gases from coming back into your house. Another option is to add a diluted bleach water mix to the drain, a mix of 20% bleach to 80% water would be sufficient. It won't last longer than just water but may add a fresher scent to the space.

The Wastewater 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 Non-emergency number 815-485-2500 and a Wastewater Department employee will contact you.

WINTER TRIVIA

What was the original purpose of marshmallows before they became a popular candy?

Answer: Originally, marshmallows were made from the root sap of the marsh-mallow plant (*Althaea officinalis*), combined with sugar and egg whites. This concoction served as a medicinal syrup and ointment, known for its soothing properties to treat ailments like sore throats, coughs, and skin irritations. Over the years, the use of marshmallows transitioned from medicinal to culinary, evolving into the sweet treat we know today.



What percentage of the Earth's surface is covered by snow in the winter?

Answer: Snow, in its solid form, covers approximately 23 percent of Earth's surface, either permanently in places like the polar ice caps or temporarily during certain seasons in various regions. This snow coverage is vital in reflecting sunlight and influencing the planet's weather patterns and ecosystems.

The three major cities, with populations greater than 100,000, that get the most snowfall on Earth are located in what country?

Answer: Aomori, in northern Honshu, Japan, averages about 25 feet of snow annually and ranks the snowiest city on Earth.



Sapporo, Japan follows as the second snowiest city at 15 feet per year, and Toyama, Japan is ranked the third snowiest city at 12 feet annually. The "sea-effect snow" phenomenon, where cold Siberian air mixes with warm, wet air from the Sea of Japan, causes this heavy snowfall.

WATER- SEWER BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

The Village of New Lenox offers multiple ways to view and pay your utility bill, plus 24/7 phone payments and pay by text. Residents can receive and view bills electronically, make a payment with a credit/debit card or e-check, and choose to go paperless. A quick, one-time payment can be made without registering or you can create an account to enjoy

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more features such as setting up automatic payments, saving payment information for later use, and viewing bill and payment history. Residents receive email reminders when their bill is ready, when a scheduled payment is pending, and a confirmation after making a payment.

Residents can sign up for FREE ACH WITHDRAWAL as well. Customers may sign up for automatic payment withdrawal from a checking or savings account by filling out the [Automatic Payment Withdrawal Form](#). This form can be found on the New Lenox website by clicking on Pay Your Water Bill. Submit the completed form with the requested information to the Village Hall. Your water/sewer bill will automatically be deducted from your account on the due date. You will still receive a monthly bill so you will know how much money will be deducted from your account.

OPEN NOW:



- **Aflac/Margo Moore**, 1234 N. Cedar Road (on the east side of Cedar Road directly north of New Lenox Family Eyecare). Services insurance products to customers. Email: margo_moore@us.aflac.com or (708) 448-8500
- **Ascension Employment**, 326 Alana Dr. (on the north side of the Metra tracks across the street from Ace Hardware). The employment service recruits and places temporary and permanent employees at clients. Specializes in light industrial, clerical, IT, accounting, and finance. 708-769-0671 / <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551133410758>.
- **Curaleaf**, 705 E. Lincoln Hwy. (located in the strip mall north of Route 30 and east of Discount Tire). Adult-use cannabis dispensing retail store, which includes the sale of medical cannabis. State-approved cannabis products are offered. <https://curaleaf.com/shop/illinois/curaleaf-il-new-lenox> or 708-258-1141
- **Extended Beauty Bar Extension & Color Specialist**, 313 W. Maple St. (across the street from the United Methodist Church on Route 30) offers salon services, hair extensions, color specialty, and retail hair products. 708-699-1848
- **Flourish Family Chiropractic**, 327 W. Maple St. (across the street from the United Methodist Church) is a family chiropractic office that offers services throughout the full layout. 815-545-8660 and www.flourishfc.com
- **Holicky Corporation**, (home-based business). Holicky Corporation is a full-service marketing agency that serves businesses of all sizes, from small local shops to large corporations around the Chicagoland Area and throughout the United States. Website design, digital marketing, and advertising services are provided. <https://www.holickycorporation.com> or 773-551-5477
- **Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers**, 552 E. Lincoln Hwy. (southeast corner of Route 30 and Roberts Rd). Restaurant specializing in chicken fingers. www.raisingcanes.com/home
- **Roger L. Krueel State Farm**, 201 W. Maple St. (located inside the same building as Kathy Miller State Farm). The agency offers insurance and financial service sales. www.rlkrueel.com/ (312) 312-3755 / roger.krueel.by87@statefarm.com
- **Shangri-La Spa**, 280 E. Lincoln Hwy., Suite G (located in a space in the same plaza as Bourbon's Smokehouse). Offers massage and spa services. 626-244-6508
- **Thorntons**, 500 W. Maple St. (on the southwest corner of Veterans Parkway and Route 30) is a fueling station and convenience store.

- **Village Realty, Inc.**, 125 W. Maple St. (in a building west of the plaza of the former Pizza King). Real estate services are offered. www.vrsrealty.com / (815) 485-1212

COMING SOON:

- **Crepe-N-Brew**, 336 W. Maple (in a strip mall on the southeast corner of Route 30 and Vine St.). A carry-out restaurant that makes crepes, shakes, boba drinks, espresso, coffee, and waffles and offers bottled water, juice, and soda. CrepeNBrew@gmail.com Tentative opening: January
- **Hickey Memorial Chapel**, 2100 Calistoga Dr. (across the street from Berkot's off Laraway Road). Funeral services. Burial services, including merchandise sale of caskets, urns, printed material, and various other funeral-related merchandise. www.hickeyfuneral.com or info@hickeyfuneral.com Tentative opening: January
- **Off-Leash Hotel**, 706 W. Maple St. (located in the strip mall that includes Beggars Pizza and Planet Fitness) is a dog daycare, boarding, and grooming facility. Dogs may stay during the day and/or overnight for short or long stays. www.offleashhotel.com Contact through the website to register for service. Tentative opening: TBD



NEW OWNERS:

- **Lincolnway Chiropractic**, 195 Marley Rd. (in the strip mall on the southwest corner of Marley Road and Route 30) has a new owner. Dr. Jason Kosek acquired the business from his father, Dr. Scott Kosek. The practice will continue to provide chiropractic care for patients of all ages. Services offered include but are not limited to spinal and extremity adjustments, disc decompression therapies, trigger point therapy, and assigning stretches and exercises when appropriate. www.lincolnwaychiropractic.com or (815) 485-8200
- **Nutrition Hub**, 1005 W. Laraway Rd. (in the strip mall on the northwest corner of Nelson & Laraway) has a new owner. The Hub will make and distribute healthy protein shakes, bowls, and teas. Herbalife Health products will be used and sold in the establishment. Health coaching is also available. (708) 205-9003

NOTE: Businesses are published once they obtain a building permit or register with the Village of New Lenox. Residents may hear that an establishment is forthcoming to the Village, but the Village does not publicize it until a completed building permit or registration is submitted.

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING LOCAL DURING "SHIFT YOUR SHOPPING" IN NOVEMBER

The Village and the New Lenox Chamber of Commerce want to thank all residents who supported the 19 local establishments that participated in the Shift Your Shopping promotion that was held on Black Friday, November 24th, and Small Business Saturday on November 25th. Please continue to support our local businesses throughout the year!

