

The

VILLAGER



New Lenox Receives 4th Consecutive Governor's Hometown Award

On December 3, 2014 the Village of New Lenox received a Governor's Hometown Award for its "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disasters" program. This is the 4th consecutive Governor's Hometown Award for the Village of New Lenox and the first year as "Cup Finalist." The prestigious award was presented during a ceremony at the State of Illinois Library in Springfield, IL and recognizes volunteers for work toward improving their communities.

The Governor's Hometown Award recipients were chosen by a group of volunteer judges who reviewed and ranked applications based on community need, use of resources, and results. Projects were judged within their population category as well as within an assigned project category such as services and mentorship, memorials and monuments, parks and recreation, beautification and sustainability and history and preservation. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity administers the Governor's Hometown Awards Program and this was the 32nd annual ceremony to recognize community volunteers.

The New Lenox "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disaster" program was created through the village's Safe Communities America Coalition and Citizen Corps Council which is comprised of individuals representing over thirty community organizations in New Lenox and Will County. Safe Communities and Citizen Corps members are responsible for identifying injury prevention priorities, safety promotion, preparedness activities and assessment of these efforts within the community. In June 2010 the Village of New Lenox received accreditation as a "Safe Community" by the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on Safety and the National Safety Council. New Lenox was the 9th community in the United States to achieve this accreditation. In September 2010 the New Lenox Citizen Corps Council received a National Citizen Corps Achievement Award for work also related to preparing citizens for emergencies and disasters.

The New Lenox Police Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), and Search and Rescue (SAR) Team volunteers played an integral role in the "Preparing Citizens for Emergencies and Disasters" project presentation. Since the CERT program's inception in September 2009, over 275 residents have completed the 20-hour Basic CERT Class which teaches citizens how to prepare for emergencies and disasters. Graduates of the program participate in on-going training, assist at community events, provide emergency preparedness presentations for community groups, and stand ready to assist first responders during times of crisis. Volunteers donated over 5,000 hours of their time participating in these activities in 2013.

Mayor Tim Baldermann, who attended the awards ceremony in Springfield, expressed thanks and appreciation for the volunteer's efforts. "Our volunteers participate in many events throughout the year and we appreciate everything they do." "We're very proud of them and their contributions to making New Lenox a safe place to live and raise a family." "The Governor's Hometown Award is an achievement that our community can be very proud of and to be a Cup Finalist this year is truly an honor," Baldermann went on to say. Volunteers that contributed to this year's Governor's Hometown Award were recognized at the December 15th Village Board Meeting.



Pictured Left to Right: Ellen McCurdy, Senior Policy Advisor to the Director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; Patricia Edgett, New Lenox CERT and New Lenox MRC; Kurt Carroll, Village Administrator, Village of New Lenox; Patricia Pakosz, New Lenox CERT and New Lenox SAR; Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, New Lenox Police Department; Alain Murry, New Lenox CERT; Michael English, New Lenox CERT and New Lenox SAR; Randy Halach, New Lenox CERT, New Lenox MRC, and New Lenox SAR; Tim Baldermann, Mayor, Village of New Lenox

January 2015

Village Officials

- Timothy Baldermann *Mayor*
- Laura Ruhl *Village Clerk*
- Annette Bowden *Trustee*
- David Butterfield *Trustee*
- Nancy Dye *Trustee*
- Emily Johnson *Trustee*
- Keith Madsen *Trustee*
- David Smith *Trustee*
- Kurt T. Carroll *Village Administrator*

Inside This Issue

Governor's Hometown Award	1
Winter Show Removal	2
Public Works Uses Beet Juice	2
Village Adopts New Building Codes	2
2014 Planning Department	3
2014 Building Department	3
Shop With A Cop	3
2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge	4
Senior's Matter of Balance Classes	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. Tues. Thurs. Fri. 8:30-5:00
Wed. 8:30-7:00

www.newlenox.net

the Village of New Lenox
"Homes of Proud Americans"

Winter Snow Removal & Parking Regulations

The winter season brings inclement weather conditions making travel difficult. One of the Village's primary objectives during the season is to keep roads and highways free from snow and ice through plowing and salting operations. As residents, you can help us keep our streets and roads safer by keeping vehicles off public 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.

On Street Parking Prohibition - Snow Tow

In order to effectively clear all streets from curb to curb, any vehicle parked on the roadway must be removed. Failure to clear the entire road surface hinders further removal of snow and presents a hazard when the remaining snow on the roadway freezes. As soon as the snow depth reaches 2" or greater, ALL vehicles must be removed from the street. It is advisable, however, to remove your vehicle as soon as it begins to snow. When parking overnight, keep in mind it may snow while you are sleeping, creating a problem early in the morning. Village code provides for ticketing or towing of vehicles in violation of this ordinance.



Depositing Snow in the Roadway

The practice of pushing or blowing snow from private driveways into the public roadways is prohibited. Frozen snow piles from private snow removal operations create a hazard to vehicular 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, snow is placed in your yard or in the parkway, not the street. Our snow plow drivers try to minimize any excess snow plow windrowing into cleared drives, however, the plowing process regrettably pushes some snow back into the cleared drives. Depositing snow on the street simply adds more to your drive after the next plowing cycle. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding by keeping private drive snow removal off public streets.

Questions

Should you have any questions about "Snow Tow" or discharging snow into the roadways, please feel free to contact the Village offices at 815-215-4800. Thank you in advance for your assistance and cooperation in keeping New Lenox streets and roads safe.

Public Works Continues to Use Environmentally Friendly Beet Juice to Keep Roads Safe

While winter weather is always unpredictable, preparation in the Public Works Department remains the same – be prepared for all conditions!

When it comes to keeping Village roads safe and free of snow and ice, one of the techniques Public Works uses is the application of a combination of salt brine and beet juice on Village roads. This mixture is routinely placed on roadways prior to a snow event by a modified sprayer truck. This explains the pattern of lines or stripes which residents or visitors might notice when driving through town. This application process is referred to as "Anti-Icing."



The salt brine mixture is composed of rock salt and water. The beet juice itself is a by-product of sugar beet production – minus the sugar. By using this application, the amount of rock salt used on Village streets is reduced, which saves money and reduces the impact on the environment. To be more specific, less sodium chloride is introduced into the environment using this application. The positive result is less impact on green space (public right-of-way, parks, etc.), our infrastructure and our vehicles.

Another advantage to the use of the salt brine and beet juice combination is that it makes the job of removing snow and ice at lower temperatures much easier. When the temperature gets below fifteen degrees, rock salt is no longer effective for melting ice and snow. By adding organic material (beet juice) to the mix, and applying that salt brine and beet juice combination to our streets, now you have an effective ingredient to melt snow and ice well below zero.

- **Using less salt saves money.**
- **Using less salt is better for the environment.**
- **Using Beet Juice helps make the process more efficient.**

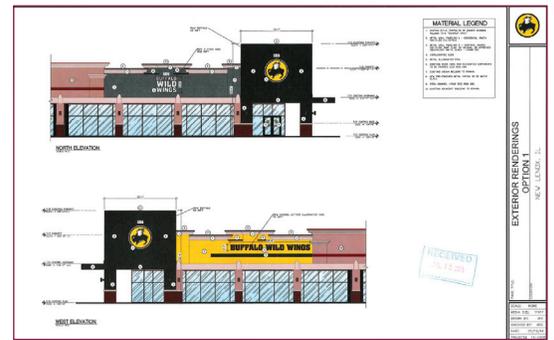
We commonly look for and refer to, Win-Win situations. With this Public Works application it's a Win-Win-Win! Please drive safely during our winter weather season.

Village Adopts New Building Codes

In October, the Village Board adopted the 2012 International Codes, the 2011 National Electrical Code & the 2014 Illinois Plumbing Code. The new codes will go into effect for all permits submitted after Jan 1, 2015 for all construction projects.

2014 Planning Department Summary

The Village's Planning Department is responsible for facilitating projects through the Development Review Committee, Plan Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Village Board. During 2014, the Planning Department processed 52 applications for annexation, rezoning, subdivision, special uses, planned unit developments, site plans, or variances. Some of the major projects include Final Plats for Bristol Park Unit 2, Hibernia Estates Unit 5, and Leigh Creek South Unit 1; Site Plans for Coldwell Banker, Joliet Oncology and Hematology, Potbelly's / Mattress Firm, and Southwest Gastroenterology; Variances for Buffalo Wild Wings; and Planned Unit Developments for New Lenox Horizon Senior Living and the Shops at American Pride.

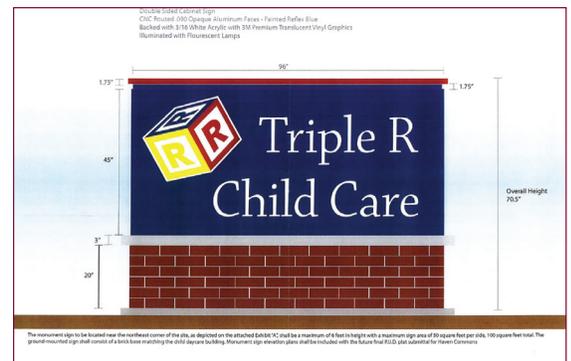


The Planning Department also manages the 50/50 Parkway Tree Replacement Program that allows residents who have had their trees removed due to infestation with the Emerald Ash Borer to share the cost of a new tree with the Village. During November, 126 trees were planted throughout the Village.

2014 Building Department Summary

The Village's Building Department is responsible for reviewing building plans and conducting the required inspections for all new construction, building additions, remodeling, and miscellaneous permits. Between January and November, the Building Department issued 152 permits for new single-family residences in subdivisions throughout the Village, as well as 3 permits for new commercial and industrial buildings and 19 remodeling permits for new businesses including Buffalo Wild Wings, Bulldog Ale House, Coldwell Banker, Joliet Oncology and Hematology, LA Fitness, Mattress Firm, Potbelly's, and the Silver Cross Administrative Building.

The Building Department conducted over 3,900 building and plumbing inspections so far in 2014. In addition, the Building Department issued certificates of occupancy to businesses such as Petco, Ross Dress for Less, TJ Maxx, Lenny's Food N Fuel, Triple R Day Care, and the new Police Station.



Residents continue to make improvements to their homes, as evidenced by the number of permits issued for garages, pools, roofs, window/door replacements, lawn irrigation, decks, driveway replacements, fences, and sheds. Over 700 permits were issued for these types of miscellaneous projects through November.

Shop With A Cop

On Saturday December 13, 2014 officers and cadets from the New Lenox Police Department, along with volunteers, participated in the 3rd Annual "Shop With A Cop" event. The Shop with a Cop program involves law enforcement officers and volunteers donating their time to take a group of children on a Christmas shopping spree. The children from this year's event were selected by referrals from different social service agencies in the community. The officers spent a fun filled morning shopping with over forty children ranging in ages from six to thirteen.

The day started off at 8:30am with children arriving at the New Lenox Police Department to meet with officers and volunteers. Each child was provided a gift card to purchase Christmas gifts for their families at the New Lenox K-Mart. The gift cards were purchased through donations from New Lenox Police Officers, K-Mart and Morning Star Mission.



At 9:00am a parade was led by the police department to the New Lenox K-Mart where the children shopped and visited with Santa. After shopping with the officers, the children returned to the police department to have pizza, cupcakes and wrap their Christmas gifts.

This was a wonderful experience for the officers, cadets and volunteers. It gave everyone the opportunity to help local children have a brighter Christmas as well as an opportunity for the kids to spend some positive time with the police officers.



New Lenox Places 2nd at the 2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge

The New Lenox Police Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) took 2nd place at the "2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge." The event was held on Saturday October 18, 2014 at the College of DuPage Homeland Security and Education Center in Glen Ellyn, IL. This year's event was the 5th annual, and was also the 5th time New Lenox CERT has participated.

Eleven dedicated members of the New Lenox CERT started training in August for this year's event. Many evenings were spent brushing up on team building, triage & treatment, transport, interior search, fire safety & utility controls, disaster psychology, documentation and exterior search. Each team member volunteered to take the lead on one or more of these disciplines. Team members taught each of the topics at one of the training sessions and then took the lead at the respective "stations" during the event.

The event, sponsored by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, in collaboration with the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, created an environment where 11 Community Emergency Response Teams rotated through 8 stations (approximately 30 minutes each), which tested their emergency response skills. A total of 210 volunteers participated in this year's event, which included volunteers from the 11 teams as well as volunteers that served as role players, evaluators, station assistants and planning team members. The event ended at 4:00pm with the completion of the last station, followed by a closing ceremony in the auditorium of the Homeland Security and Education Center's Auditorium.

Our 2014 Prairie State CERT Challenge Team performed exceptionally well at the event which has brought credit and recognition to our program. The event, as well as the training leading up to the event, has raised the skill level of our participating volunteers. As such, these individuals will be able to pass along their experience to others in our CERT program. This increases our team's level of preparedness for WHEN a disaster strikes our community. Ultimately, lives are saved and injuries are prevented or treated in a more effective manner because of the dedication of these volunteers.

For additional information about the New Lenox CERT program or to register for a FREE 20-hour CERT class, contact Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, New Lenox Police Department, (815) 462-6128 or dmartin@newlenox.net.

Congratulations and special thanks to our 2014 New Lenox Prairie State CERT Challenge team (pictured left to right):

Rich DeVault, Randy Halach, Dave Lauer, Tricia Pakosz, Mike English, Trish Buhle, Shelley Halach, Lisa Murphy, Patty Edgett, Joe Frigo, Dan Johnson



Seniors Benefit From "A Matter of Balance Classes"

Forty-six seniors recently graduated from "A Matter of Balance" classes held in New Lenox. The New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition, in partnership with some of its participating organizations, offered four classes this Fall. Classes were held at the Cottages of New Lenox, New Lenox VFW Post 9545, the United Methodist Church, and the New Lenox Public Library. Classes were taught by New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition members as well as volunteers, some of which are Matter of Balance graduates. A grant from the Northeastern Illinois Area Agency on Aging covered the costs of materials and supplies for the classes.



Fear of falling can be just as dangerous as falling itself. People who develop this fear often limit their activities, which can result in severe physical weakness, making the risk of falling even greater. Many older adults also experience increased isolation and depression when they limit their interactions with family and friends. A Matter of Balance can help people improve their quality of life and remain independent.

A Matter of Balance is an evidence-based program that is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Participants learn to set realistic goals to increase activity, change their environment to reduce fall risk factors, and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance. For additional information about A Matter of Balance or to register for a FREE Class, contact Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, New Lenox Police Department, (815) 462-6128 or dmartin@newlenox.net.