

The

VILLAGER



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.

Mailboxes & Reporting Damage

An area of concern for homeowners and the Village is the damaging of mailboxes present in the parkway during snow removal operations. This can be very frustrating for both parties, as residents expect to be able to receive mail daily and snowplow drivers often cannot avoid damaging mailboxes because they are improperly placed or are already in poor condition.

Mailboxes are private property and they must meet very specific guidelines when installed. According to United States Postal Service:

- The mailbox is required to be 6-8 inches behind curb and 41-45 inches off the ground;
- The post should be constructed from a wooden "4x4" post or a two-inch diameter standard steel or aluminum pipe; and
- Mailbox-posts cannot be constructed of potentially dangerous supports, such as heavy metal pipe or concrete posts.

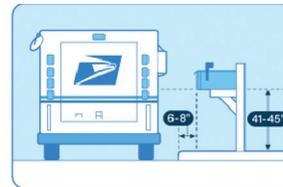


Figure 1:
Proper Mailbox Placement

Before the winter season arrives, Public Works staff will evaluate the mailboxes on Village roads. By using this proactive approach, Village staff will assess the condition of mailboxes and create a list of mailboxes that have deficiencies which should be addressed prior to the winter season.

¹Guidelines and graphic found on USPS Website - <https://www.usps.com/manage/mailboxes.htm>

Questions & Reporting Damage

Should you have any questions about "Snow Tow", discharging snow into the roadways or plow damage, please feel free to contact the Village offices at 815-462-6400 or Public Works at 815-215-4800. If you incur damage from a plow please contact the Village offices at 815-462-6400 or Public Works at 815-215-4800. **Please do not address questions or concerns with the plow drivers directly. Approaching the trucks or climbing on the trucks is unsafe especially in the slippery winter conditions.**

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

January 2017

Village Officials

- Timothy Baldermann *Mayor*
 Laura Ruhl *Village Clerk*
 Annette Bowden *Trustee*
 David Butterfield *Trustee*
 Douglas Finnegan *Trustee*
 Emily Johnson *Trustee*
 Keith Madsen *Trustee*
 David Smith *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.

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

New Local Businesses to Check Out

New Lenox residents now have more retail/service opportunities per the new businesses listed below:

- Jung's Champion Taekwondo, 2433 & 2441 Joliet Hwy. (in Bluestone Commons). Martial arts classes offered for ages 4 and up. Open NOW.
- Murphy Oil, Inc., 431 E. Lincoln Hwy. (between Goodwill and Aldi). 24-hour convenience store with retail fuel, pre-packaged foods, alcohol, and tobacco products. Open NOW.
- Parkview Christian Church, 2121 S. Schoolhouse Rd. (off Laraway and Schoolhouse Roads). New Lenox Campus with weekend church services. Open NOW.
- T-Mobile, 408 Nelson Road (in plaza south of Buffalo Wild Wings). Cell phone store. Open NOW.
- Wondering Spirit, LLC, 600 E. Lincoln Hwy., Unit D (office plaza on the southeast corner of Williams St. and Route 30). Metaphysical shop where yoga is taught and services are provided in facials, energy work, and a variety of classes. Open NOW.



Route 30's Hot Properties

By the time the January 2017 issue of the Villager is circulated, Kmart will be closed. Kmart was the first big box store that invested in New Lenox and survived many economic cycles. Once the Village was notified that Sears Holdings planned to close the New Lenox Kmart (and many others in the Chicago suburban area), staff has been communicating with a broker who is selling the approximate 84,000 square foot building and its accompanying 15.46 acres for Sears. The Village looks forward to working with a new tenant for this commercially-zoned property.



The former Pizza Hut building on the southwest corner of Vine Street and Route 30 has had bushes removed and work has been done on the inside. No new tenant is signed on yet. The owner and realtor are working to make aesthetic changes to make the building more appealing.



The owners of Les Brothers filed permits to continue working on the new restaurant building and the Village looks forward to the progress that can be made to this site during the winter. Residents most likely noticed that Burger King and McDonald's Restaurants are undergoing "face lifts." The renderings of both of these remodeled restaurants are beautiful.

Lastly, there are empty parcels on the south side of Route 30 across the street from Walmart that are lately of interest to developers. It is encouraging to see the economy improve and that New Lenox is on outside developers' "radar screens."

Tree Pruning

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.

Which trees will you be pruning?

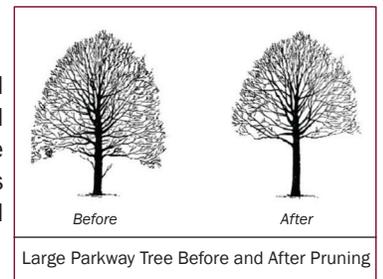
Parkway trees are the trees located next to public streets, usually in between the sidewalk and road. In areas without sidewalk, the Village maintains trees in the Right-of-Way, which typically extends fifteen feet beyond the edge of the road.

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.



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 out rather than out and down. While these clearances may initially leave some trees with a lopsided appearance, a symmetrical crown will be achieved as the tree matures and more pruning is performed.

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

Water Department Happenings

Joliet Highway Booster Pump Installation

The east and southeast quadrant of town have been the subject of much discussion regarding water pressure. In an effort to increase the water pressure in these areas, as well as plan for future growth, the Village of New Lenox will be adding two pumps to our pump house located on Joliet Highway. This will require an addition to the current building at Joliet Highway and Sojourn Road. The addition of these two pumps will increase pressures in the southeast quadrant of town (Sky Harbor, Heather Glen areas), from 35-40 psi to 55-60 psi. Areas east of the tank (Windermere, Schoolhouse Manor, Wellington, Eagle Estates, Crystal Springs, Bluestone Bay, Crystal Cove) will also see an increase to 60-70 psi from the current range of 40-50 psi. All areas west of the tank at Sojourn Road and Joliet Highway will continue to see the good pressures they currently have. Work on this project began in November and we anticipate the project being completed in the second quarter of 2017.

RPZ Survey and Inspections

The Village of New Lenox is required by the Illinois EPA to conduct a survey every two years in an attempt to identify any backflow issues in residential homes and businesses. The web link to fill out this survey is <http://bsiprograms.com/surveys/>. This survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete. A letter will be sent out with your February water bills to remind all residents to complete this survey.



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, Illinois, is the company the Village has contracted to maintain our database. **THIS YEAR AND GOING FORWARD, 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 may result in service to your home being disrupted until your device is compliant. 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>.

Red Ring in Toilet, Shower or Sink

Many questions have been raised regarding the pink ring or film that appears from time to time in toilets, sinks, showers, and tubs. This is a bacteria known as *Serratia marcescens*. It grows in areas with materials containing phosphorous or fatty substances, such as feces. It also will grow in areas that have soap residue, namely showers, sinks, and tubs. The bacteria survive in these areas because the chlorine in your water dissipates as it sits, allowing the bacteria to grow. Flushing your toilets a couple times a day, and rinsing all soap residue from showers, and sinks will help to lessen this bacteria. Once you notice the bacteria, clean with a chlorine based cleanser, or bleach. While this bacteria is generally harmless, it has been known to cause issues in hospital settings.



Black Sediment in Faucet

Some residents have asked questions regarding the black sediment that occasionally accumulates in the aerators on their sinks, or comes out in their bathtubs. This sediment usually comes from somewhere inside the home, although it can occasionally come from outside the home. First, we will talk about the causes inside the home. One of the main causes is your hot water tank. Sediment will sink to the bottom of your water tank, which will cause your tank to work that much harder to produce hot water. As you drain the tank for a long shower, or bath the sediment will mix with the last amount of hot water and will then go to your fixtures. Manufacturers recommend flushing your hot water tank at least once a year. Another cause is from your pipes itself. Over time, especially in older homes that were once on well water, sediment builds up on the pipes. As water flows through these pipes, they will occasionally knock some of this sediment off. Another cause can actually be the fixture itself. Many fixtures have rubber rings that will, over time, gradually wear away, going into the aerator. Cleaning your aerators once a month is a good practice to reduce any particles going into your water.



There are also a couple ways that this sediment can come into your house from the public water supply. If there has been hydrant flushing or a fire in your neighborhood, the water rushing through this pipes can knock sediment off the village water mains and into your home. Likewise with water main breaks, the Village will flush the mains through fire hydrants to make sure the water is clean. If you notice any of these situations occur in your area, run the water in a utility sink, bathtub, or a fixture without an aerator until the water clears up.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY QUESTIONS, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THE WATER DEPARTMENT AT (815) 215-4800.

Nelson Road Extension Update

The Nelson Road Extension between Haven Avenue and Illinois Highway was opened on December 2, 2016 with temporary traffic signals at both intersections. The Joliet Highway widening and connection to the new Nelson Road extension was opened on December 7, 2016.

The project includes one lane of traffic in each direction between Illinois Highway and Haven Avenue. Additionally, there are left turn lanes at all four legs where Nelson Road intersects Illinois Highway/Spencer Road and Haven Avenue. Joliet Highway was widened from approximately Boeing Drive to the west where it intersects with the Nelson Road extension. There is a stop sign on Joliet Highway and free flow of traffic on Nelson Road at this intersection. There is also a bike path along the east side of Nelson Road from Haven Avenue to just north of Illinois Highway. Street lights have been installed along Nelson Road and at the intersections. These new street lights should be operational by the end of December.



Proposed storm water improvements for the Aerohaven Subdivision and final restoration will take place early in the spring of 2017.

Christmas in the Commons Kick-Off Celebration

The Christmas in the Commons Kick-Off Celebration took place on Sunday, December 4th. The snow-filled afternoon delighted attendees and made for a picture-perfect afternoon in the Village Commons. A number of people and organizations made this event possible, and our sincere thanks go out to all of them.

Thank you to those who helped to run the event and provide entertainment for our guests: staff, C.E.R.T., E.S.D.A., student volunteers, New Lenox Community Television, Santa and Mrs. Claus, New Lenox Police Department, New Lenox Public Library, New Lenox Community Park District, Fleckenstein's Bakery, Old Plank Trail Community Bank, Jewel-Osco, and WalMart.



Thank you to all the wonderful groups who performed during the event and provided outstanding entertainment: Liberty Junior High Madrigals, Martino Junior High Treble Madrigals, Lincoln-Way West Madrigals, and the St. Jude Music Ministry Bell Choir.

Thank you to all who participated in our coloring contest. The winners of this year's contest were 10-year-old Nate Ochoa of Johnston Elementary School in the 9-12 category, 8-year-old Nicholas Vicario of Nelson Prairie School in the 5-8 category, and 3-year-old Addy Shortall of Kids & Company Preschool in the 1-4 category.



Another huge thank you to our Christmas in the Commons sponsors: Friends of the New Lenox Parks, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., Image360, Atrium Family Dental, Burns Photography, Hickey Memorial Chapels, HoneyCuts, Inc., Kurtz Memorial Chapel, Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, New Lenox Family Eyecare, Old Plank Trail Community Bank, and ReClaim Fitness.



Finally, thank you to the New Lenox residents and visitors who came out to the Village Commons for this event or anytime throughout the holiday season. We hope you've enjoyed the new activities brought to the village, and we look forward to seeing you again in 2017. Happy New Year!

Lincoln-Way Area Chorale's Trip A Huge Success

The Lincoln-Way Area Chorale recently returned from a highly successful trip to New York City, where they were invited to perform in a large scale production of Handel's "Messiah." They were the "core choir" for part one of the well-known oratorio. After three days of rigorous rehearsing, the concert was presented to a sold out crowd at the world renowned Carnegie Hall. Reaction to the concert was both swift and highly positive. Gregory Day, Artistic Director and New Lenox resident said he felt the group was well prepared, and represented not only New Lenox, but the entire southwest suburban area very well and in a very professional manner. He expressed his ongoing appreciation for the full support from Mayor Baldermann and the Village of New Lenox. He was quoted as saying, "regardless of what the future holds for this choir, they will always remain, first and foremost, a 'community choir', who's first loyalty is to our local following."



FREE Falls Prevention Classes Offered for Older Adults

Have you turned down a chance to go out with family or friends because you were concerned about falling? Have you cut down on a favorite activity because you might fall? If so, "A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls" is a program for you.



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 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.

The New Lenox Safe Communities America Coalition, through collaborative partnerships with member organizations, is offering a FREE Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls Class as follows:

Starting February 28th (Tuesdays) thru April 18th, 9:30am - 11:30am at New Lenox Police Department, 200 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox, IL 60451.

For additional information or to register for the class, please contact Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, New Lenox Police Department, (815) 462-6128 or via email at dmartin@newlenox.net.

