

Village of Lena News

Small community—Great Opportunity



December 2016 Issue 12

Lena Village of Lights

Special thanks to all our participating businesses and residents who helped make the 3rd Village of Lights a success. The decorations were awesome. Over 100 children visited with Santa! \$100 Gift card winners: - Aurora Kubiscik & Chad Earley. \$50 Gift Card Winners: Dawn Cruz & Kim Earley. Other Winners: Ashely Ellner \$25 Emily's Cutting Edge; Cheryl Jagiello, Lisa Spice and Patrick Busse—\$25 Bavarian Inn; Hilary Rose \$25 LeFebre Auto Body; Brittany Meyer \$15 McGuire's; Jamie Egan 16" Pizza-McGuire's; Marlene Cruz-Fish Fry-McGuire's; Justin Klind \$25 Cory's Crank & Nail. Stockings: Brianna Wasilewski & Wyatt Booth. Movie gift baskets: Halle Behnke and Roger Cruz. Gift bag winners: Grayce Wilcox and Carter E. Congratulations!! "Elf" Donations (to be given 12/23/2016) from Wooden Shoe, Cory's Crank & Nail, Dair-Ray Veterinary Service, & Bavarian Inn.

Property Taxes

Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Thurs.
7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Friday.

Friday December 23, 7:30 to 11:30.
Closed Monday Dec. 26 for Christmas Holiday. Normal hours Friday, Dec. 30 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. Closed Monday, Jan. 2nd for New Year's Holiday.

When paying with cash—
Please bring the exact
amount.!!!

Message from President Marquardt:

It's hard to believe that another year is coming to an end! Where did the time go? My wife and I drove through the neighborhoods in our village this week and were amazed at how many homes and businesses are decorated for the holidays. A big thank you is in order for the Village of Lights Committee for their hard work to "dress" Main Street in the colors of Christmas and for planning the many events on December 3rd. Many of our businesses participated and made donations so that all those visiting Lena would enjoy the lights. Last year we even had a few visitors from Chicago that happened to be driving through and walked the Village with amazement on how such a small community could have such a grand display.

With 2016 almost in the books, I started to think about where we were 12 months ago and where we are at now. It is always an eye opener for me to see what got accomplished throughout the year! One of my goals as Village President is to get our Standing Committees aligned and accountable for working on issues and improvements. I feel that this approach is starting to show what can be accomplished when we have all members of our board actively engaged. Progress is being made.

An area that I want to highlight in this newsletter is our budget.

Terry Hinds, Village Vice –President and key member of our Finance Committee presented the following :

"On November 21, after much discussion, the Village Board adopted the village's 2017 budget. While maintaining all the levels of services the Village provides, the tax levy went up just \$244 to \$186,752. That increase is the tax levy allowed by the Dept of Revenue's levy limitation. Unfortunately, the Village continues to struggle with balancing its tax levy budget with the decreasing state general and transportation funds we receive.

The Village's mill rate actually decreases to \$5.75 per \$1,000, down from \$5.78 in 2016. This is due to the increase in assessed value of the village from \$32,272,500 in 2015 to \$32,491,200 in 2016. The village maintains a fair general fund balance (\$250,000 as of 12/31/2015) which is in compliance with the recently adopted Fund Balance Policy and is used as a cushion for unanticipated costs.

With the recent water rate increase, the water utility is maintaining a sufficient revenue stream to cover expenses of the new water treatment plant, while the sewer utility continues to operate at an annual loss, which will necessitate an increase in sewer rates in future years. The Village, while operating fiscally responsible, will have challenges in the upcoming years with needing to replace aging vehicles and street equipment, updating water and sewer mains and manholes, upgrading a 30 year old sewer treatment plant and maintaining and repairing the village's streets, alleys and sidewalks and retaining qualified employees to run the operations and keeping safe our village. To this end, the Finance Committee and Village Board is working to assure the village residents the high level of services they have come to expect while balancing the effects of tight fiscal requirements."

In closing, I want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year. Thank you for choosing to live in Lena, to work here, or own a business here, to shop locally, or come to worship here in one of our many churches, attend our schools or just visit here. As always, we would love to have you get involved in making a difference in our Village. I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Village Board

President

Steve Marquardt 920-373-2217

Trustees:

Terry Hinds 920-373-3810

Debra LeFebre 920-829-6399

Craig LeFebre 920-829-6146

Ken Linzmeyer 920-829-6125

Linda Hinds 920-829-5639

Larry Belongia 920-829-6375

Contact Information

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Hours: M-Thurs 7:30-4 p.m.

Friday 7:30—11:30 a.m.



Winter Reminders

If your property has a sidewalk along it, you are required to have the snow cleared within 24 hours (Village Ordinance 277-10.)

Winter parking rules are now in effect. No vehicle is to be parked on the street between 2:30 a.m.—7 a.m., December 1-April 1. If you have tenants that do not receive this notice please inform them. Parking citations will be issued for non-compliance. (Village Ordinance 302-16)

Sewer Rate Increase effective March 16, 2017

The following base rates will be in effective:

3/4" or 5/8" \$86.35

2-1/2" \$744.79

1" \$215.87

3" \$1021.85

1-1/2" \$345.40

Extra Unit Charge \$43.16

2" \$518.14

Volume charge \$4.60 per 1000 gallons

Recycling changes effective 1/1/2017

Effective January 1, 2017 the Village of Lena is going to single stream recycling. What does this mean? This means that you can recycle plastics (#1-7—caps removed), newspapers, magazines, catalogs, cardboard (corrugated only), glass (clear, brown & amber, green & blue) bi-metal cans (cleaned and labels removed) in one bin. No need to separate these items. Also we recycle beverage cartons such as juice, milk, cream, wine, soup, broth etc. (must be rinsed, drained and remove caps/straws). Aluminum foil and pans are not recyclable (garbage). A detail brochure is included.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Garbage Bags Increase

Effective January 1, 2017 the cost of garbage bags will increase to \$1.25 per bag. This is the first increase in cost for the garbage bags since it was started. It is recommend to buy them by the roll. Available rolls are 5, 10, 20, and 25 bags. **Be sure to tie your bags! Do not tape them!**



2017 Board & President Positions Available

There are 3 trustee and the President's positions open for 2017 April election. Trustees Terry Hinds, Linda Hinds, Ken Linzmeyer and President Steve Marquardt are up for re-election. Declaration of Candidacy papers are available beginning December 1, 2016 at the Village Hall. If you have any questions please contact the Village Clerk.

Village Quarterly Schedule

January

Jan 9— Court 4 p.m.

Jan 10—Finance Mtg. 4:30 p.m.

Jan 16—Plan & Dev 5:30 p.m.

Village Board 6:30 p.m.

Jan. 31—Final tax payments at
Village

February

Feb. 13—Court 4 p.m.

Feb. 14—Finance 4:30 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day

Feb. 20—Plan & Dev 5:30 p.m.

Village Board 6:30 p.m.

March

Mar. 13—Court 4 p.m.

Mar. 14—Finance 4:30 p.m.

Mar. 20—Plan & Dev 5:30 p.m.

Village Board 6:30 p.m.