

VILLAGE VISION

SPRING 2008 Vol.21, No.1

Lansing Municipal Center moves forward

An invitation to bid has gone out to retrofit the former SBC building on Ridge Road and Burnham into a new home for Village offices in keeping with final plans for the facility. The Center offers a space about four times the size of current office space and allows for centralizing Village operations including the Mayor and Village Clerk offices, as well as the building department and fire inspection bureau.

After conducting an extensive space needs analysis, The Linden Group of Homewood prepared bid specifications. The new Lansing Municipal Center will provide outstanding office and meeting space and also improve the safety and security of office operations.



The Linden Group drawing of the new Municipal Center lobby.

The Village of Lansing Municipal Center project includes the renovation of the 13,000 square foot existing structure. The renovation will include small additions to the building foot print, new entrance colonnade and canopy, new skylights, new roof, and

completely new interior partition layout including relocation of existing plumbing. Interior spaces will include entrance lobby, conference rooms, office space, records, storage, and support areas.

All interested bidders were invited to a mandatory prebid meeting in mid-March, and sealed bids will be accepted until April 4. A ceremonial ground breaking is expected to occur in late April or early May, with the completion of the entire project projected for late fall in 2008.

The building, constructed in the 1970's, is relatively new and well kept. It gives the Village the ability to develop space for its use at a cost of about one-fifth that required to build a new facility.

"In addition to giving us a fiscally attractive alternative, this approach opens an exciting opportunity to rethink the plans for downtown," said Mayor Dan Podgorski. We are looking forward to consolidating village offices in a single location. The renovated building should serve us well into the future.

Historical society announces flag design contest

The Lansing Historical Society invites Village residents of all ages to

participate in its Flag Design Contest.

Flags are a time-honored means by which a community can display its pride. All citizens are encouraged to support and participate in the contest. Research material regarding the Village's history is available at the Lansing Public Library, or at the Historical Society, housed in the Library.

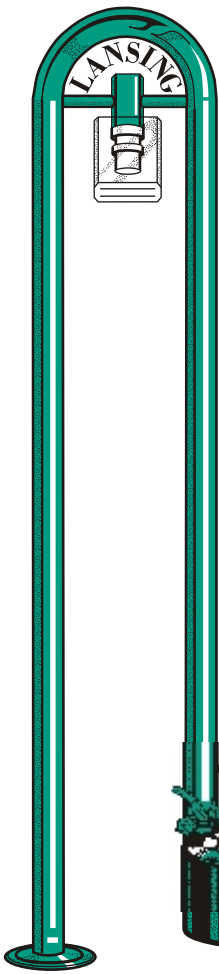
General flag design information is available from the North American Vexillological Association site at:

<http://www.nava.org> .

Entry forms are available at the Village Clerk's Office, 18200 Chicago Ave., or at the Lansing Library.

Deadline for entries is May 16, 2008.

Finalists will be selected by the Lansing Historical Society Board. Lansing Mayor Dan Podgorski and the Village Board of Trustees will make the final selection of a design for the Village of Lansing flag.



Safer routes to schools promised

Students in Memorial Junior High School and Lansing Christian Grade School will soon have safer and healthier trips to school, thanks to a Southland Safe Routes to School grant.

The grant, administered by the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Robinson Engineering and the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, will help Lansing make walking and biking to the two schools easier, safer and more fun by improving infrastructure and implementing encouragement programs.

Infrastructure improvements will give students safe places to actively travel to and from school. Initially two schools – Memorial Junior High School and Lansing Christian Grade School – will be involved.

Grant money will be used to install a traffic signal at Ridge Road and School Street, where traffic congestion currently endangers students on foot or bike and students getting picked up in cars. Neighborhood sidewalks and crosswalks will also be upgraded.

Encouragement programs will educate students and promote walking, biking and being physically active as part of a healthy daily habit. This May, the students will participate in a bicycling clinic to get their bikes fixed

and then bike in the Good Neighbor Parade. Beginning next year, bicycle education classes will be part of the fifth grade physical education curriculum. Students will learn basic bicycle repair, bicycle safety and the fundamentals of group riding. Additionally, fifth-graders will have the opportunity to discover safe routes to their new junior high school with guided group rides to school.

Southland Safe Routes to School is part of the Safe Routes to School movement to make walking and bicycling to school a safe and valued activity through infrastructure improvements in school environments, student safety education, stepped-up traffic enforcement and encouragement and outreach to communities.

In Lansing, Southland Safe Routes to School can help get more people involved in bicycling and actively traveling in the Village or on the Pennsy Greenway.

If you are interested in volunteering with our efforts to create a safe and sustainable transportation environment for school children and adults alike, please contact Leslie Phemister, Southland Safe Routes to School coordinator, at (708)922-4673 or leslie@biketraffic.org.

Lansing volunteers celebrated

The special “Evening of Thanks” staged last November to recognize and honor volunteers was a huge success. More than 200 persons attended the event.

Plans are in the works to conduct such an event again in 2008. Save the date of November 14. Local groups, organizations, schools and churches will again be asked to choose one individual to be honored during the evening. Now is the time to begin thinking about which special volunteer you would like to be recognized.

It's a great opportunity for the Village to acknowledge and thank members of the community for their distinguished service, Mayor Dan Podgorski said.

THIS AND THAT...

HELP THE HOMELESS: Lansing is one of 40 south suburban communities participating in the South Suburban Homeless Program to provide meaningful solutions to the problems of homelessness. The Village offers an opportunity to contribute to the Public Action To Deliver Shelter (PADS) Program through water bill collection. You can give a \$1 per month tax deductible contribution through the Village. Pick up a form at the Village Clerk's Office and return it for an automatic deduction to be added to your water bill. Together we can help those in need of temporary emergency housing.

VEHICLE STICKERS: Village Clerk Jean Eisha reports pre-printed applications for vehicle stickers will be mailed in early May. When you receive your form, verify and update pre-printed information, and submit

the pre-printed form at the time of purchase. The licenses go on sale in mid-May, and new stickers must be displayed by July 1.

SENIOR DISCOUNT: Lansing seniors, age 65 and over, may receive a discount on the Village **refuse portion** of their water bill. Eligible seniors, if you have not already done so, bring your driver's license state ID and a copy of your real estate tax bill to verify ownership and age to the Village Clerk's Office, 18200 Chicago Avenue.

DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTED: More than 10,000 copies of the “little yellow book” phone directory published by the Chamber of Commerce are being distributed during March. The directory contains important information along with coupons, business and residential sections.

AARP TAX AIDE FOR SENIORS: Federal and State income tax returns are being prepared on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Lansing Youth Center at 18123 Burnham Ave., Noon to 3:30 p.m. until April 15. The Youth Center opens at 11:45 a.m. No appointment needed.

AARP Tax Aide is the largest free volunteer-run tax preparation service for taxpayers with middle and low income, age 60 and older. Membership in AARP is not required. Please bring your last year's return with you. Call 418-8050 for more information.

BEST VALUE FOR YOUR GOLF DOLLAR: The Lansing Chamber of Commerce promises a great return from this annual event, Wednesday, June 11. Sponsors, volunteers, golfers and prize donors are being sought. For more information, or to sign up, call the Chamber at 474-4170.

Spring storm tips offered

When the National Weather Service issues a “watch”, it means the particular hazard is possible likely to develop in your area. When a “warning” is issued, it means the hazard is in your area and the danger is very serious. Shelter should be sought at once.

Signs of an impending thunderstorm include distant thunder and lightening, and dark towering clouds. Thunderstorms can bring heavy rain, strong winds, hail, lightning, and tornadoes. In a severe storm, stay indoors and have a battery-operated radio nearby. If you are caught outdoors, avoid lightning by staying away from isolated trees, elevated locations, and any metal objects such as chain link fences, golf clubs, umbrellas, and tools. It is a myth that lightning never strikes the same place twice. In fact, lightning will strike several times in the same place in the course of one discharge.

Most tornadoes occur near the trailing end of a thunderstorm. If a tornado warning is issued, seek shelter immediately. Go inside a windowless structure such as a basement, cellar, interior hallway or closet. Never seek shelter from a tornado in a car or mobile home.

Questions about these precautions may be directed to the Lansing Fire Department at 708-895-7400.

Another resource is the Chicago area National Weather Service at 1-815-834-0600, or on the web at www.weather.gov/. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) may be reached at 1-312-408-5500, or at www.fema.gov/.



Good neighbor week: annual parade is “Lansing Frontier Days”

The first Saturday in May will again feature the Annual Good Neighbor Parade, sponsored by the Lansing Chamber of Commerce. However, this year's parade – scheduled for May 3 at 2 p.m. – is opening Lansing Chamber-Good Neighbor Week, May 3-9. During this week, the Chamber is seeking for every person, organization and business to do something nice for someone or for the community.

The week opens with the parade whose theme is “Lansing Frontier Days” and closes on Friday, May 9, with a Good Neighbor Country and Western Bash, “A Night at the Frontier Saloon,” at Villa de Bruno. The Bash includes an all you can eat steak, chicken and ribs buffet with all the fixins, open bar, entertainment, line dancing and some exciting contests, such as bean spitting.

All this food, drink and fun is only \$50. Tickets are available at the Chamber Office, 3404 Lake Street; First National Bank, 3256 Ridge Road; and Great Lakes Bank, 18120 Torrence, through April 21.

Suggested good neighbor projects include: cleaning up a neighbor's yard, house or your whole block; take an elderly person shopping or bring them groceries, hold a rummage or bake sale for charity, blood drives, collecting food for the food pantry, volunteer, help your church or school, sponsor free kids activities, visit elderly and bring flowers to nursing homes, etc.

The Chamber of Commerce wants to publicize all good deeds and wants everyone to call or email their info. Pictures are also welcome and taping a big event may be arranged through our local cable network, LNN.

Lansing's Best Neighbor

In conjunction with all this neighborliness, the Chamber is asking everyone to nominate someone for Lansing's Best Neighbor. It is looking for people who help everyone else out, their friends and neighbors. One man and one woman will be chosen to lead the good neighbor parade. To nominate someone, send their name, address and phone number along with your own name and address and a short essay saying why they are the best neighbor. Nominations may be sent by email to lansingchamber@yahoo.com



or mailed to 3404 Lake Street, Lansing, MI 60438. Nominations accepted through April 14.

The parade attracts many villagers lining the parade route to enjoy the festivities.

Lansing's many organizations, schools, churches, and businesses take the opportunity to show their community spirit by participating in the parade. Each year brings a new challenge as they strive to match their floats to the parade themes.

The parade will finish at Lan-Oak Park where the Lansing Lions will serve hot dogs and pop to all participants.

Applications for the 41st Annual Parade are to be submitted to the Lansing Chamber Office before Monday, April 14 and line up is determined by date of entry. The forms are available at the Chamber offices, 3404 Lake Street, or go to the Chamber web site www.chamberoflansing.com to download a form. There is no entry fee for Chamber of Commerce members or non-profit organizations.

The entire event will be video taped by Lansing's own LNN Station-Channel 4 and will be broadcast multiple times for everyone to review the day. After stepping off from Wentworth and Ridge at 2 p.m., the parade proceeds west on Ridge Road to Torrence Ave., North on Torrence to 178th Street, and east on 178th Street to Lan-Oak Park.

Winners will be notified by mail and invited to receive their awards at the annual parade awards breakfast later in the month at Popolano's Restaurant.

Townhouse communities take shape

Two attractive townhouse communities for mature residents, 55 and better, are taking shape in Lansing. The projects introduce a sense of excitement and interest as we emerge from the long winter months. Both developers anticipate the opening of models this spring for those interested in purchase.

Construction of the first building along Wentworth Avenue in the Cedar Pointe project, located on 193rd Place between Wentworth Avenue and State Line, will be finished by the end of April with open houses anticipated shortly thereafter. According to Ken Krusinski of K & D Development Co., there are already reservations for 11 of the 32 units.

The townhouses, with prices ranging from \$229,000 to \$269,900, come pretty well equipped with the option of adding extra amenities, he said. Persons interested in the development may request a brochure be mailed to them by calling 219-365-9500.

To learn more about the 69 townhouse project, Spring Lake Villas, going up at 177th and Lorenz, John Cvetkovski encourages a visit their web site at springlakevillasoflansing.com.



This is the artist rendering for Cedar Pointe, located at 193rd Place.



Models for Cedar Pointe will be ready in April.

Or call, (708) 307-7075. It is anticipated models will be available in May. The price range is \$225,000 and up, depending on size and amenities selected. The units range from 1650 to 1700 square feet. A brochure detailing the various options may be printed off the Spring Lake Villas web site.



Spring Lake Villas features 69 townhouses at 177th and Lorenz.

Easter coloring contest is underway

The Lansing Chamber of Commerce Easter Coloring Contest is underway. Early in March, 3,500 Easter pictures were delivered to children at Lansing schools and day care. The pictures are colored and decorated by the children and are brought to local Lansing Chamber special retail merchants for entry into the contest.

The children are asked to drop off completed entries at a retail Chamber member (listed on the picture) by Wednesday, March 19. Judging will be March 20 by a panel of judges who will select the winners in each age category who will be notified by phone. Winners will be invited to an awards presentation where each will receive a specially prepared Easter basket from the Easter Bunny.

Sponsors for this year's party, March 22, at Popolano's Restaurant are Ultra, Chase Bank, Popolano's and the Lansing Fire Department. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. when the Bunny arrives and free pizza and pop will be served until 11:30 a.m. All the artwork submitted by the children is being displayed at Lansing merchants. The Easter Bunny will arrive by Fire Engine.

Community Survey Regarding Comcast Cable Television Service and LNN-TV, Ch 4.

LNN-TV - Channel 4, the local Lansing access station, has prepared the following questionnaire to evaluate the community's needs and interests in regards to cable service.

Please return the completed survey by April 30, 2008 in person or by mail to:
LNN-TV Offices, 18123 Burnham Ave, or Village Clerk's Office, 18200 Chicago Ave, Lansing MI

Are you a cable subscriber? Yes _____ No _____ If not, Why not? _____

1. Which Comcast Services do you subscribe to? (Check all that apply)

_____ Cable TV Basic Service _____ Cable TV Standard Service
_____ Cable TV Digital Service _____ Pay-Per-View
_____ Premium Channels _____ Movies On Demand
_____ Telephone Service _____ Internet

2. On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, rate your overall cable television reception?

() 1 – poor () 2 () 3 () 4 () 5 – excellent

3. On a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being poor and 5 being excellent, rate your selection of program choices?

() 1 – poor () 2 () 3 () 4 () 5 – excellent

4. If you have spoken to Comcast about a equipment technical problem how satisfied were you with Comcast's ability to resolve your problem?

() Very satisfied () Somewhat satisfied () Problem not resolved () Not Applicable

5. If you have spoken to Comcast about a billing problem how satisfied were you with Comcast's ability to resolve your problem?

() Very satisfied () Somewhat satisfied () Problem not resolved () Not Applicable

6. Have you watched Lansing's Channel 4 within the past ____

Week? () Yes () No Month? () Yes () No

7. Should Lansing continue to have it's own channel and programming opportunities.

() Yes () No

Programming Questions

8. Would you like to watch more television shows created by Lansing residents?

() Yes () No

9. Currently Channel 4 creates a monthly "Meet the Mayor" program and multiple short features on Village events. Are you interested in more local government related programming?

() Yes () No

Village of Lansing
18200 Chicago Avenue
Lansing, Illinois 60438

Please fold and place tape here for mailing

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

LNN-TV, CHANNEL 4
c/o THE VILLAGE OF LANSING
18200 CHICAGO AVENUE
LANSING IL 60438

10. Currently Channel 4 produces a monthly NEWSCORE featuring local student created video stories, activities, and events. Are you interested in more local educational related programming?

Expanded Continued Discontinued

11. Currently Channel 4 produces a monthly LOPD Update about the activities and programs of the Lan Oak Park District. Are you interested in more local park related programming?

Expanded Continued Discontinued

12. Occasionally, videotapes of local interest related to history and culture are presented on Channel 4. Are you interested in more programming on local history, culture, and civic affairs?

Expanded Continued Discontinued

13. Please check off those specific programs that you watch or would like to see:

Community Calendar Local Special Events, Plays & Concerts
 School Sports Events School Special Events, Plays, & Concerts
 South Suburban College Programs Local News & Public Affairs Programs

14. Would you be interested in creating a program to be aired on Public Access Television?

Yes No Maybe

15. Are you more likely to watch broadcasts on Public Access Television during the (Check all that apply):

Morning Afternoon Evening Weekdays Weekends

16. How much would you be willing to pay on your cable bill to enable the purchase of equipment to improve the quality and quantity of LNN- TV, Channel 4 Town and Village government programming?

1-9¢ /month 10-25¢ /month 26-50¢ /month Other _____

Add comments or questions below: _____

Please return this survey to LNN-TV, Channel 4, 18123 Burnham Ave.

Or

Clerk's Office, 18200 Chicago Ave.

Survey available on the LNN and Village Web sites.

Memorial day service set

The Lansing Veterans Memorial Ceremonial guard will conduct its Memorial Day program at the Lansing Veterans Memorial on Sunday, May 25, 2008 at 2 p.m.

This year's program will include the rededication of the Memorial's restored Huey helicopter. It will also honor those who piloted and served as crew chiefs aboard them.

The ceremony will take place at the Memorial site, Glenwood Lansing Road and Burnham Ave., at the Lansing Municipal Airport. All residents, especially veterans and their families, are invited to attend. The traditional 21-gun salute and taps will follow a guest speaker, wreath-laying, and raising of service flags.

For more information, contact Rich Dominiak, ceremony coordinator, at 708-862-7731, or Larry Grzywinski, 708-474-3049.

Mark your calendar for wings and wheels

Mark your calendar now to celebrate the golden age of the airplane and the automobile. "Wings and Wheels" on June 8, 2008, at the Lansing Municipal Airport will give you an opportunity to learn more about this time in history.

Enjoy breakfast and stroll through rows of homebuilt, antique, and historic aircraft. Guest speakers will be on hand to cover the subjects of aviation, history and the Ford Hanger. You can then end the experience with a luncheon and visiting with other aviation and history enthusiasts.

The event is sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association, the Joliet Model A Restorers Club, and the Lansing Municipal Airport.

Activities begin with breakfast starting at 7 a.m., speakers from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and end with lunch served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Ford Hangar is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Spring Classes, getting underway at the South Suburban College Business and Career Institute located at 58 W. 162nd Street in South Holland.

For more information call 596-2000, Ext. 2455.

Easter Coloring Contest, for local school children, is underway. Bring completed pictures to Lansing Chamber retail merchants to enter the contest by Wednesday, March 19. Judging is Noon

Thursday, March 20. Sponsored by the Lansing Chamber of Commerce.

Village Offices Closed, Good Friday, March 21.

Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, March 22, at 10 a.m. At all parks for children 10 and under. Sponsored by the Lan-Oak Park District.

Call 474-8552 for the location nearest you.

Pizza with the Easter Bunny, Saturday, March 22, 10:30 a.m.

Easter Bunny arrives by Fire Engine at Popolano's Restaurant. All children invited to meet the Easter Bunny. Free pizza and pop for all children 10 and under.

Grandparent/Grandchild Bingo Bash, Friday, May 30,

6 p.m. - 8 p.m., \$20 for grandparent and one child, 5-8, \$8 for each additional child. Lan-Oak Park District. Call 474-8552 to sign up.

Good Neighbor Contest, Chamber of Commerce seeks Lansing's best neighbor to lead good neighbor parade. Deadline is Monday, April 14.

Rotary Club of Lansing Top 10% Luncheon, Friday, May 2, at Lansing Country Club, by invitation, honoring top students at Lansing's three high schools.

Good Neighbor Week, Saturday, May 3-Friday, May 9. Do something nice.

"A Night at the Frontier Saloon," Good Neighbor Country and Western Bash, Friday, May 9, by Chamber of Commerce, 7 p.m., call 474-4170, \$50.

Good Neighbor Parade, 41st Annual, "Lansing's Frontier Days," Saturday, May 3, 2 p.m. Steps off from Wentworth and Ridge.

Sponsored by the Lansing Chamber of Commerce. Sign up by April 14.

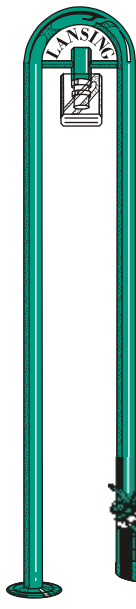
Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.

Flag Design Contest, Lansing Historical Society, May 16 deadline.

Memorial Day Service, Lansing Veterans Memorial site, Glenwood Lansing Road and Burnham Ave. at the Lansing Municipal Airport, Sunday May 25, 2 p.m. Bring lawn chairs. Memorial's Huey helicopter to be rededicated.

IMPORTANT LANSING PHONE NUMBERS

Clerk & Collector's Office	895-7200
Department of Planning & Development	895-7174
Building Department	895-7193
Mayor's Office	895-7208
Fire, Police Emergency	-911-
Fire, non-emergency	895-7400
Poison Control Center—St. Margaret Hospital, Hammond, IN	1-219-933-2039
Police, non-emergency	895-7150
Chamber of Commerce	474-4170
NICOR Gas – Customer Service	1-888-NICOR4U
Park District	474-5020
Power Outage	1-800-EDISON-1
Public Library	474-2447
Public Works	895-7190
U.S. Post Office	474-0080
Animal Control Officer	895-7150



The **Lansing Village Vision** is published quarterly by the Village of Lansing to highlight the many aspects of the community which impact positively on the economic environment here. Please address comments and suggestions to The Village Vision c/o Village Hall, 18200 Chicago Avenue, Lansing, IL 60438.
Editor: Aggie Stempniak.

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Lansing, Illinois 60438

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PERMIT No. 125
LANSING, IL

WSS-CRT

Welcome New Businesses

We are happy to welcome these new businesses to Lansing. When you are considering your shopping and service needs, please think of Lansing first.

All Pro Logistics, Inc.,
transport service-brokerage.
2535 Bernice Road
Phone: 800-232-2914

Center of Attractions,
beauty shop.
2940 Bernice Road
Phone: 369-4828

Crystal Rose Beauty Salon,
beauty salon.
3157 191st Place
Phone: 474-4985

Designer Financial Group Inc.,
mortgage company.
18221 Torrence Ave.
Phone: 418-1010

Elocin Hair Salon,
beauty salon.
17238 S. Torrence
Phone: 895-5336

Erma's Boutique,
handbags, jewelry and accessories.
3446 Ridge Road
Phone: 474-3450

Fifth Third Bank,
branch.
16831 Torrence
Phone: 862-7037

H & R Block Enterprises,
income tax preparation
16771 Torrence (inside Wal-Mart)
Phone:990-7073

Illinois Mortgage Financial Corp.,
residential mortgage.
3523 Ridge Road
Phone: 461-6300

Jackson Hewitt,
tax service.
18434 Torrence Ave.
Phone: 832-9020

LA Fitness,
temporary membership enrollment center.
16781 Torrence Avenue
Phone: 251-0173

The Lich's Lair Games, Inc.
tabletop gaming.
3242 Ridge Road
Phone: 251-2500

Mi Indulgence Beauty Salon,
beauty salon.
3216 E. 171st Street
Phone: 638-4362

National Home Investment Corp.,
real estate investor.
3523 Ridge Road
Phone: 394-5154

Nation Wide Security,
contract security services.
1965 Bernice Road
Phone: 418-9937

PowerMix Musical Productions,
DJ, recording, musical productions office.
1961 Bernice Road
Phone: 483-4840

RoRo Inc., Shoe Warehouse,
retail shoes/clothes.
17835 Torrence Ave.
Phone: 889-9790

Spires Enterprises, Inc.,
buy/sell homes.
1955 Bernice Road
Phone: 474-7253

Worldwide Wireless of IL,
Sprint/Nextel phone store.
2504 173rd St.
Phone: 418-1299



LA Fitness opens here at the end of April.