For more frequent news and information about the Village of Lansing, please consult our website at www.villageoflansing.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 28th

Village Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony @ Santa House – 5 p.m.
Saturday, November 30th

2019 Santa House – Opening Night – 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 30th

DECEMBER
Festival of Lights opens – Lansing Historical Society
Museum at Lansing Public Library – 6:00 p.m.
Monday, December 2nd

Village Board Meeting – Lansing Courthouse – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 3rd

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
Saturday, December 7th

Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce - Breakfast With Santa – TF South –
8:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 14th

Village Board Meeting – Lansing Courthouse – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 17th

Final Exams – TF South High School
Thursday, December 19th & Friday, December 20th

JANUARY
New Year’s Day – Lansing Municipal Center closed
Wednesday, January 1st

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Lansing Municipal Center closed
Monday, January 20th

Village Board Meeting – Lansing Courthouse – 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 21st

8th Grade Open House – TF South High School –
6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 28th

FEBRUARY
Parent/Teacher Conferences – TF South – 2:00 to 4:30 p.m.
and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 13th

Valentine’s Day
Friday, February 14th

Presidents’ Day – Lansing Municipal Center closed
Monday, February 17th

Special thanks to Dan Bovino for his photographic contributions

Village of Lansing
3141 Ridge Road, Lansing, IL 60438 • (708) 895-7200

Village Board Meetings
First and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and
are held at the Municipal Court Facility, 2710 170th St., Lansing, IL 60438
No meetings the first week in January, July and August

Municipal Center Hours
Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. • Saturday: Closed
(except for months of May and June)
Greetings Lansing!

As we prepare for Thanksgiving it is a perfect time to reflect on all we have to be thankful for here in Lansing. For 2019 my list is very long. It would be impossible for me to leave the words ‘Fox Pointe’ off the top of that list.

I know many of you have wonderful memories of our first year of concerts and other events at our beautiful new entertainment venue. As for me, I’m thankful for our employees and staff from Public Works, Finance Department, IT Department, Fire Department and Police Department who worked together with our administration to make this first year such a success. I saw classmates from years ago getting reacquainted and old neighbors catching up on Lansing news at the Pointe. Here’s to looking forward to more great music, food, entertainment and community events at Fox Pointe in 2020.

I am thankful for our residents and the support they give to not only the village, but also our service organizations and community events that help others when the need arises. Any day that I receive a message of thanks or a compliment on any of our employees from a resident is a good day for me. Those messages are appreciated so much and I always pass them on to the employees and supervisors.

I’m thankful that we were able to help so many of our residents this year with street resurfacing, sidewalk repair and removal of dozens of dead trees from our parkways.

Soon it will be time for Santa’s arrival at his house here in Lansing, an old Lansing tradition we were able to bring back two years ago. I hope Santa and all our residents will be pleased with the new holiday decorations that will be displayed just across from his house in Fox Pointe.

I look forward to Christmas and all my family traditions as I hope you do in your home. Please join me to spare a kind thought to those that protect our village, keep our streets clear and remain ready should we need help over the holidays.

My warmest wishes to you and yours for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a new year filled with promise and opportunity.

Mayor Patty

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2019 Holiday Message from Village Clerk

VIVIAN PAYNE

It has been a year filled with excitement and renewed energy here in Lansing with the opening of our new civic space: Fox Pointe! This is a project that has been in the making for over five years, and the reward has been immense. This once empty parcel of property in our downtown business district has been transformed into a venue that we can be proud to call our own. It has become a space that now serves as an economic engine for Lansing and the setting for social gatherings where friends run into each other and where the public can interact with your local government – a space that has truly become a recognized and valued gathering place in Lansing. Walt Disney once said “You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality” and this certainly holds true for Fox Pointe. From the numerous people that had the dream, to those that designed, built and visited the venue, this project could not have become a reality and success without you. Throughout 2019, the Village has hosted numerous concerts and festivals at Fox Pointe that have brought out folks from near and far, young and old alike. As we look forward to new and exciting events for 2020, I want to thank everyone for their commitment and continued support of this wonderful new venue.

I would also like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of our dedicated employees and residents that have made a special effort this year to give back to our community. The energy and enthusiasm of volunteerism in Lansing is tremendous, and enhances the quality of life for everyone that lives, works, visits and raises a family here. It is my hope that you continue to bless this community with your time and talents, while inspiring others, making new friends and gaining a sense of achievement.

The holidays are upon us, and in the midst of all the hustle & bustle, we find it important to take the time to spend treasured moments with family, friends and loved ones. We reflect on all that we are thankful for, and look ahead to the New Year with promise and opportunity. We go out of our way to be kind and thoughtful during the holiday season and are quick to offer a helping hand to those that need one. As I eagerly anticipate this festive season, it makes me wonder why so many of us (myself included) do all of these things during the holidays and not year-round? As we celebrate this wonderful season, let us all be mindful of the joy we find in spending time with family, friends and loved ones every day of the year, and then make an effort do it more often. Let us be thankful every day of the year for all that we have. Let us all make kindness and thoughtfulness a daily act. My warmest wishes to you and your family for a very joyous holiday season, and may your hearts & homes be filled with love, happiness, success and good health in 2020!

Warmest wishes, Vivian Payne
Grant News

The Lansing Police Department Grant Team has recently been awarded two significant grants for upcoming public safety projects. The team consists of five sworn Lansing police officers who have been trained in grant writing and administration. These officers research, apply for, and administer these grants in addition to their other duties.

The Lansing Police Department was awarded funding for a License Plate Reader (LPR) camera system through the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s Urban Area Security Initiative Grant. This grant is designed to assist agencies with projects that will help to prevent, protect, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism. The award of $301,169.57 will cover the purchase, installation, and five (5) years of service for cameras at three intersections in Lansing. There is no matching requirement for this grant and all initial expenses will be covered under the award. The cameras will be installed on Torrence Avenue at 173rd and 176th Place, and also at Ridge Rd. and Wentworth. Brite Computers will provide the hardware, arrange for installation, and set up service for the cameras. Brite Computers has worked on similar projects with several neighboring communities, including Munster, Hammond, Chicago Heights, and the City of Chicago. The Lansing Police Department will be able to obtain and share data with all of these agencies once up and running. This project is underway and the planning phases are completed with installation dates forthcoming.

The second grant is through the U.S. Department of Justice. The Village of Lansing was awarded $40,000.00 for the purchase and policy development of a Body Worn Camera program. The Village of Lansing was one of only three mid-sized municipalities in Illinois to receive an award under this competitive grant program. Only 48 awards were distributed to similarly-sized municipalities across the nation. This grant requires a 50% match by the Village of Lansing. The Lansing Police Department is currently in the policy development phase of this project and plans on purchasing Panasonic Body Worn Cameras by the end of the year. These Panasonic cameras will work with the existing Panasonic In-Car Camera system currently in place. It should be noted that a majority of the funding for the in-car cameras was funded through a grant in 2018.

Lansing P.D. honors retirees, makes promotions

In September, Lieutenant Chris Mizner retired from the Lansing Police Department after 28 years of dedicated service to the Village of Lansing and Lansing Police Department. Chris served in a variety of positions with the department including Patrol Officer/Paramedic, Field Training Officer, Emergency Response Team Supervisor, Sergeant, Investigations Sergeant, and Patrol Lieutenant.

Also, Officer Kevin LaPointe retired from the department after 25 years of service. During his career, Kevin served the department as a Patrol Officer/Paramedic, Field Training Officer and as a Tactical Officer. The Department wishes both officers well in their respective retirements.

With these retirements Sergeant Jason Klausner and Officer Robert Garcia were promoted to Lieutenant and Sergeant. Sergeant Klausner joined the department in 1995 and has served as Patrol Officer/Paramedic, K-9 Handler, and as Sergeant of Investigations. Officer Garcia joined the Department in 2009 and has served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Emergency Response Officer, and Defensive Tactics Instructor. Both Lt. Klausner and Sgt. Garcia have been assigned to the patrol division and will lead their respective patrol shifts.

The Lansing Police Department currently has two open positions for probationary police officers and will be conducting a new testing process in the near future. For those interested in participating in the upcoming process, please contact the Lansing Police Department.
The remodeling of Lansing Fire Station 29 at 19300 Burnham began in early 2019. The Department’s goal was to transform a fire station that had not been truly updated since its construction in 1976. Using funding from a grant, as well as the Department’s annual budget, the project was brought to completion this fall.

The scope of this project was broad. It addressed the deteriorating exterior façade and lack of landscaping, as well as a remodel of the interior of the facility. The goal of the interior remodel was to create sleeping quarters, a day room, office spaces, and also to provide an update to the kitchen, thereby assisting Lansing’s firefighters who work 24 hour shifts at the stations in town. The exterior work was done to address the façade of a building that had fallen into disrepair and to bring the building up to par with others in the surrounding area.

The remodeling work was carried out by both subcontractors and members of the Lansing Fire Department. In order to keep costs in check, the members of the Department pitched in and did all of the demolition work needed for the project. The demolition work made for some very long days, as it was done on shift and in between fire and EMS responses.

With the remodel now complete, the Village’s firefighters are enjoying their new quarters at Station 29. It has been a long process that spanned many months, but in the end was worth it. The days and nights of working, eating and sleeping in and around an ongoing remodeling project are now behind the LFD. Firefighters on shift can now enjoy their new surroundings knowing they played a large role in making this remodel a reality.
Village Hosts Cook County Economic Meeting

Mayor Eidam and the Village of Lansing were hosts to Cook County 4th District Commissioner Stanley Moore’s Regional Economic Development event at the historic Ford Hangar in late September. Area mayors and other economic leaders from the southern suburbs were in attendance to listen to a program headlined by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and several of her department heads. At the forefront of the agenda was the importance of the upcoming 2020 Census to economic growth in the area. Other Cook County departments in attendance included the Department of Highways and Transportation, the Bureau of Economic Development, the Department of Homeland Security, the Office of the Chief Procurement, and the Department of Capital Planning.

Village of Lansing Wins Regional Award

The Village of Lansing is incredibly proud and honored to have received the 2019 Patricia Chase Magon Municipal Leader of the Year Award from the Chicagoland Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau (CSCVB). One winner is chosen annually from the 63 Chicago Southland municipalities in recognition of its vision, service and outstanding contributions to the tourism and hospitality industry in the Chicago Southland. Mayor Eidam accepted the award at the CSCVB Annual Awards program held on October 2nd at the Oak Lawn Hilton.

Lansing was recognized for its very successful inaugural season at Fox Pointe and its continuing commitment to collaboratively work with community groups such as LACE and the Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce to provide residents and guests the opportunity to participate in events such as Lansing’s Autumn Fest, Cruise Nights, Good Neighbor Day Parade, and LOOP (Lansing Out on Pedals). All of these events bring together thousands of people from Illinois and Northwest Indiana. Lansing is also home to the historic Ford Hangar, which is used for events such as Fetching Market, with plans for additional on-site events in the future.

Before the awards portion of the program, keynote speaker U.S. Congresswoman Robin Kelly spoke about the importance of cooperation and working together to overcome barriers and utilizing innovative solutions throughout the Chicago Southland. Guest speaker Illinois Governor JB Pritzker spoke about his continued support for the tourism industry, as well as his commitment to supporting economic development throughout the Chicago Southland, which involves necessary infrastructure work. He also spoke on the impact a casino will have on the region, highlighting the potential for job growth.

One other highlight: Jedika Diaz, an employee of the Sleep Inn Hotel in Lansing, was awarded the 2019 Guest Services Employee of the Year. Congratulations to Jedika on her hard work and deserving recognition!
Village Wraps Up 2019 Street Resurfacing Program

Lansing streets continued to receive prioritized attention in 2019 under the watch of Mayor Eidam and the Village Board. Earlier this year, the Board voted to allocate approximately 1.5 million dollars for repairs and resurfacing to various sections of Lansing streets totaling just over two miles. The goal of the Village continues to be working to prolong the life cycle of Lansing roads, rather than focusing only on basic patching and resurfacing. Streets resurfaced this year included:

1. **Adams Street** from Burnham Ave. to Henry St.
2. **181st Street** from School St. to Park Ave.
3. **182nd Place** from Oak St. to Greenbay Ave.
4. **Greenbay Avenue** from Illinois St. to Ann St.
5. **Illinois Street** from Greenbay Ave. to Burnham Ave.
6. **Ada Street** from Ann St. to N. Schultz Dr.
7. **Sherman Street** from S. Schultz Dr. to 186th St.
8. **Otto Street** from Walter St. to Henry St.
9. **Oakwood Avenue** from ComEd Rd. to 192nd St.
10. **191st Street** from Burnham Ave. to Grant St.
11. **Wildwood Avenue** from 193rd Pl. to Glenwood-Lansing Rd.

In addition to these roadways, Indiana Avenue, from Torrence Ave. to School St., was also resurfaced through a $200,000 Community Development Block Grant the Village applied for and received from Cook County to help fund this project. One project currently being finished is the Green Bay Avenue water main replacement and reconstruction just north of Heritage Middle School from 191st Pl. to south of 192nd St.

Another major improvement was completed in the late summer as the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) finished its major resurfacing project on Torrence Ave., creating a new surface stretching from just north of 178th St. south to Glenwood-Dyer Rd.

A sealcoating program was also completed on various streets throughout the village. This treatment can be compared in concept to staining a wood deck to prevent it against sun and water damage. Asphalt requires these same protective precautions to extend the life of the pavement. Preventative maintenance dollars spent now will reflect in our roads lasting longer over the next several years.

The Village is now focusing on the 2020 portion of the Pavement Management Program, highlighted by the resurfacing of Wentworth Avenue from Ridge Road north to 177th Place, which will include curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements. This project will be funded with federal money facilitated by the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association.

Lansing Meals On Wheels Needs Assistance

For over twenty years, the Lansing Meals on Wheels program has prepared and delivered fresh, hot meals to senior citizens, patients recovering from medical procedures, and homebound residents who are unable to cook for themselves. The program is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit business funded by the First United Methodist Church, and it relies heavily on volunteerism for its success.

The program is asking for the community’s help to increase the number of volunteers willing to assist this valuable program. Duties include food preparation, cooking, making desserts, and delivery of the meals to the participating patrons, who must live in Lansing to qualify. Meals are prepared in the kitchen at First United Methodist Church at 18420 Burnham Avenue and delivered directly to homes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Lansing Meals on Wheels is also in need of another coordinator for the program. This individual is responsible for all setup in the kitchen, namely the coolers, food, and pots and pans. An additional coordinator duty is designing the delivery routes for the drivers. The coordinator work day starts at 7 a.m. and ends around 11:15 a.m.

If individuals are in need of a meal or want to volunteer to help keep Lansing Meals on Wheels a strong and vibrant community program, please call 895-0388 or 474-4583.
LANSING THROUGH THE LENS

BY DAN BOVINO AND LANSING’S NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK (LNN)

Lan-Oak Park District’s Halloween Parade – October 26th

Chicago Bears vs. Green Bay Packers Tailgate Party @ Fox Pointe – September 5th

Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce’s LOOP Bike Ride – September 21st

Halloween Spooktacular @ Fox Pointe – October 26th

T.F South Homecoming Parade – September 25th
Upcoming Village Holiday News

The Village of Lansing will commence the 2019 Christmas holiday season with the official Village Christmas tree-lighting ceremony on Saturday, November 30th. The event will begin at 5:00 p.m. near the Lansing Santa House located at 18106 Henry Street. Local Girl Scout members will be on hand to serve hot chocolate, and the Memorial Junior High choir will perform a medley of Christmas songs for guests to enjoy.

Near the end of the ceremony, Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive and head inside the Santa House to begin meeting with children and their families for the holiday season. Lansing’s 2019 Santa Claus House will be open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays through December 20th and will include a new surprise photo opportunity the Village is proud to debut for all guests. See accompanying Santa House flyer for specific times and dates.
The Patti Leach Youth Center is excited to announce the launching of its Fall mentoring programs and activities: Distinctively Me Mentoring for young women and Young Gentleman’s Club for young men, which will run for five weeks. The Center will also be kicking off a “Healthy Bodies-Healthy Choices” culinary experience. Youth must be members of the Center to take part in these activities. Membership is only $10 for the entire year; registration can be done on the Village of Lansing website or in person at the Center between 3 and 7 p.m.

Youth Center members and Memorial Junior High Junior PTA members visited Countyline Apple Orchard for Columbus Day. Members and staff also celebrated Halloween with a Spooky Blast on Friday, October 18th. A special thank you to Mayor Patty Eidam & Trustee Maureen Grady-Perovich for stopping by to see the kids and bringing goodies.

Other upcoming events at the Youth Center will include celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday with a dinner and dessert menu made by youth and staff. Youth will be demonstrating their culinary skills for the celebration and will have the opportunity to invite guests to our first Friendsgiving dinner on Friday, November 22nd. During the month of December, youth will be celebrating Christmas around the world with interactive activities in the Youth Center. Members and staff will host a field trip to Navy Pier in Chicago for the 19th Annual Fifth Third Bank Winter Wonderland Festival. This field trip is open to the community, and details will be available at the Youth Center for those interested in attending.
Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) recently announced that thirty local community and government organizations across the state will receive a combined $20 million to maximize Illinois’ success in the upcoming 2020 Census. The grants are the largest Census investment made by any U.S. state in 2019. According to Governor Pritzker, “We are committing the largest per-person allocation of any state in the country this year to ensure an accurate and complete count in the 2020 Census. These resources will go directly to outreach and education of our residents.”

In September, Lansing Village Clerk Vivian Payne began forming a Complete Count Committee (CCC), which will lead Lansing’s effort to be involved in the 2020 Census. The committee is made up of volunteers who represent a variety of networks and who will serve as “Census Ambassadors.”

2020 Census efforts across the country and here in Lansing will focus on populations and geographies deemed “Hard to Count” by the U.S. Census Bureau. “Hard to Count” refers to areas and communities where the response rate in the 2010 census was 73% or less. An executive order signed by Governor Pritzker in June created funding for focusing on the critical objective of increasing the response rate in these communities to the upcoming census, thereby best ensuring a complete count of all Illinois residents.

Illinois’ final Census count is vitally important. An undercount of residents could diminish the state’s proportional share of federal funding for critical services and programs. Failure to count every Illinois resident will harm Illinois’ ability to meet the needs of its residents who benefit from these programs. Even a one-percent undercount would result in the state losing over $19 million per year for a decade, resulting in a total loss of over $195 million. Additionally, the number of seats Illinois has in the U.S. House of Representatives for the next ten years will also be determined by the 2020 Census count.

In early October, the CCC received training from the U.S. Census Bureau so it can answer questions and address fears about census participation. Clerk Payne noted that only 76 percent of Lansing residents participated in the 2010 Census. The goal of the CCC is for Lansing to achieve a 95% response rate in 2020.

April 1, 2020 has been declared Census Day in the United States and information for responding will be mailed out in March 2020. Learn more about the 2020 Census in Illinois by visiting census.illinois.gov.
Looking at Lansing is circulated to all residents and businesses in the Village of Lansing, Illinois.
Comments or questions can be directed to: Ken Reynolds at the Village of Lansing: 3141 Ridge Road, Lansing, Illinois 60438; (708) 895-7209.

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here’s a quick refresher of what it is and why it’s essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts.
The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It’s in the constitution.
The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It’s about fair representation.
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

It’s about $675 billion.
The distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

Taking part is your civic duty.
Completing the census is mandatory. It’s a way to participate in our democracy and say “I COUNT!”

INFORMACIÓN BÁSICA SOBRE EL CENSO: LO QUE USTED NECESITA SABER
¡El Censo del 2020 está más cerca de lo que usted cree!
Esta es un repaso rápido de lo que es y de por qué es esencial que todos sean contados.

Todos cuentan.
El censo cuenta a todas las personas que viven en los Estados Unidos una vez, solo una vez y en el lugar correcto.

Está en la Constitución.
La Constitución de los EE. UU. ordena que cada 10 años se cuente a todas las personas que están en el país. El primer censo se llevó a cabo en 1790.

Se trata de una representación justa.
Cada 10 años, los resultados del censo se usan para llevar a cabo la redistribución proporcional de la Cámara de Representantes, determinando cuántos representantes recibe cada estado.

Se trata de $675 mil millones.
La distribución de más de $675 mil millones de fondos federales, subsidios y apoyo a los estados, condados y comunidades se basa en los datos del censo. Ese dinero se usa para escuelas, hospitales, carreteras, obras públicas y otros programas vitales.

Participar es su deber cívico.
Completer el censo es obligatorio. Es una manera de participar en nuestra democracia y decir “YO CUENTO!”.