



# Village of Lena

## Fall/Winter 2025 Newsletter

### From the Desk of the Village President



Steve Buss  
Village President

The construction projects for this season are winding down, and we're proud to share the progress that has been made. Camp Street has been completely redone, along with the Main and Townline intersection, improving traffic flow and safety. Milfred Street has undergone a full reconstruction, including the installation of a new water main. As we wrap up this season's work, planning is already underway for next year's projects.



String lights across Main Street



Lena Arch located at the sidewalk crossing by Saporitos

Our local organizations and volunteers have also been incredibly active this season. The Lions Fall Festival was another great success—thank you to all who helped make it happen! The F4 Committee has been working hard putting finishing touches on the Northwest Illinois Aerial Combat Memorial downtown. More beautiful overhead lights were added along Railroad Street downtown, bringing even more charm to our evenings. We're also excited to share the addition of a brand-new Lena archway crossing downtown, adding a welcoming landmark to our village

All of these improvements have been made possible thanks to the dedication of our local organizations, the hard work of volunteers, and generous community donations. Thank you to everyone who steps up to make our town the best it can be!

### **WELCOME, CHIEF BRIAN LAMPHERE**

Brian Lamphere was appointed to the position of Chief of Police in May of 2025. In 2000, he began his career as an Auxiliary Police Officer with the Rosemont Police Dept. In 2005, he was hired as a Police Officer for Triton College Police Dept., in which he graduated from the Cook County Sheriffs Police Academy. Soon after, he was hired by the Westchester Police Dept. Over the course of his 20+ year career in law enforcement, he served as Shift Commander, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Officer, Juvenile Officer, School Resource Officer, Firearms Instructor and Defensive Tactics Instructor. He retired from Westchester Police Dept. as the Shift Commander in January of 2025.

Chief Lamphere is a veteran of the United States Army and the United States Navy. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant while serving in Iraq during wartime operations (Operation Iraqi Freedom). Chief Lamphere is married with seven grown children and one grandchild.



Chief Brian Lamphere

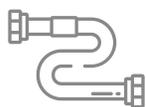
## Life Saving Award: Officer Sierra Maurer

On Monday, August 11th, Chief Brian Lamphere presented Officer Sierra Maurer with the Life Saving Award for her heroic actions on Friday, July 18th. Officer Maurer responded to a call of a 5 year old child with a traumatic amputation of the lower right arm. Upon arrival, Officer Maurer immediately applied a tourniquet and advised dispatch to have an emergency landing zone made. Officer Maurer escorted the ambulance to the landing zone where the 5 year old was transported by helicopter to UW Madison.

Officer Maurer's bravery and dedication to duty are exemplary. Her actions not only saved a life, but also reflect the highest standards of the Lena Police Department and the principles of public service.



Solverson Family (one daughter not pictured) and Officer Maurer



## Sanitary Sewer Lining Project Update

**Where we are now:** Hoerr Construction has completed the investigative phase. Crews cleaned and televised approximately 65,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer and 10,000 linear feet of storm sewer. Engineers are now reviewing the videos to identify any needed point repairs on segments that are failing, collapsed, or otherwise unacceptable.

**What's Next?** This winter, the Village and project engineers, will finalize the list of sewer segments to be lined. The current plan is to line approximately 45,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer and several hundred vertical feet of manholes.

**Timing:** Hoerr plans to return in Spring 2026 to perform the lining work when weather conditions are favorable. We'll share schedule and traffic/access details closer to construction.

## Lena Fiber Internet Update: Building A Connected Future

We are excited to share the progress on the JCE Co-op Fiber Internet project, which aims to bring world-class fiber-optic technology to enhance the quality of life for our members in Northwest Illinois.

### Current Progress

Major progress has been made on Lena's fiber network buildout. Our construction crews have completed work south of the railroad tracks, including the LNA1 and LNA2 fiber neighborhoods. Recently, crews have mobilized to the north side of the tracks and are actively working in the LNA3 neighborhood. During this phase, crews are installing both the mainline and drop fiber that connects directly to homes and businesses. Once that's complete, the fiber splicing crews will fusion splice these connections for each location to make ready for the interior installations onto our fiber network.

Next, we'll move into the northwest section of LNA4, continuing our steady progress through the fall and early winter. We anticipate Lena will become a 100% fiber-connected community by the end of this year, contingent on weather and other factors. For more information, please visit <https://forms.jcecoop.com/fiber>

## THE GIVING TREE



Village Pavilion - Winter 2024

Help a family in need by taking an ornament from The Giving Tree! The Giving Tree will be available at the Lena Mercantile starting November 21st.

Wrapped gifts can be returned to the Lena Mercantile by December 12th to be distributed to local families.





# TRICK OR TREAT OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup> FROM 5-7PM

Halloween Street Closures: From 4pm - 7pm the following areas will be closed: West Mason Street from Schuyler Street to Freedom Street and Oak Street from West Mason Street to Locust Street. Please be extra cautious during this time to ensure the safety of the trick or treaters. The downtown elementary school trick or treat parade will be October 31st at 1:15pm. The kids will start on Railroad and end on Main Street.

## Fall/Winter Reminders

**Hydrant flushing** will be October 13th - October 24th. Please avoid washing clothing while the hydrants are being flushed in your neighborhood as it can cause discoloration.

**Last Day of Brush Pick-Up** will be the 3rd week of October, tentatively October 20th.

**Leaf Removal** will tentatively begin October 21st. Leaves should be raked to the curb, but not overflowing into the street. No brush, lawn clippings, yard waste or other foreign objects should be included in the leaf piles, or they will not be removed. Leaves must remain loose at the curb; bagged leaves will not be disposed of by the Village Street Department. **No open burning.**

**Live Christmas trees:** The Village of Lena provides a designated area at the Lena Street Department for the disposal of live Christmas trees. The Village Street Department **will not** pick up Christmas trees curbside. Trees must be free of all lights, tinsel, ornaments or any other type of decoration.

**Limited Parking & Snow Emergencies:** During times when there is an accumulation of at least two inches of snow between 11/1 and 4/30 of each year, all vehicles parked on the street must be parked on odd-numbered sides of the street on odd-number days of the month and on the even-numbered side of the street on even days of the month from 1:30 am until 6 am on that day. Overnight parking in the downtown district is prohibited from 10 pm to 6 am. Limited parking areas are defined in Chapter 13 of the Village Ordinances.

## Lena Cemetery Assocation: Introducing New Board and Equipment Upgrade By Tabitha Engel, Lena Burial Park Clerk

This fall, the Lena Cemetery Association will transition to a three-member board, and I'm honored to introduce our new team dedicated to preserving and improving the Lena Burial Park.

I'm Tabitha Engel, your new Lena Cemetery Clerk. I'm a lifelong Lena area resident, wife to Ryan Engel, and mom of two busy high school and college students. I own two small businesses - as freelance communications and marketing consultant and a travel advisor - and I'm excited to bring my organizational and communication skills to this important role.

Joining me is Robin Walton as Treasurer. Robin is the proud mom of two sons, she is the CFO for Startel Corporation, and also runs her own accounting and tax business. She shares, "I'm blessed with the opportunities I've been given and grateful to serve as treasurer for Lena's Cemetery Board."

Dr. Tanner Magee will serve as president. He and his wife Sabina are raising their two children here in Lena, where he owns a chiropractic clinic and fitness gym. Tanner is passionate about helping our community live healthier lives through alternative medicine.

Earlier this year, we joined outgoing board members Marty Haas, Fritz Werhane, and Erv Klaas at their spring meeting. It was clear from the start how much care and pride has gone into maintaining the Lena Burial Park. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these dedicated individuals for their years of service.

Looking ahead, we're excited to share that the Association has purchased a zero-turn mower, which will make grounds keeping more efficient and help us continue honoring our commitment to maintaining a peaceful, beautiful resting place for our community.

We're proud to serve Lena and look forward to continuing the tradition of respect and care that defines the Lena Burial Park.

**LE-WIN FFA  
SCRAP DRIVE**

**WHEN: NOVEMBER 1ST  
8 AM-2 PM**

**LOCATION: PARKING LOT  
BETWEEN SUBWAY AND SAVORITO'S**

**ACCEPTING:  
SCRAP METAL, ALUMINIUM  
CANS, AND APPLIANCES**

**NOT ACCEPTING:  
T.V.'S, TIRES, MATTRESSES  
AND COUCHES**



**Tabitha Engel, Tanner Magee,  
Robin Walton**

Village President - Steve Buss  
Village Clerk - Claudia Simpson  
Treasurer - Nicole Callos  
Office Manager - Madi Becke  
Chief of Police - Brian Lamphere  
Officers - Louis Cusanelli

Sierra Maurer  
Nick Georgean

**Streets Department**

Brandt Esling  
Ben Cheeney  
Andrew Martin  
Kevin Warner

Water - Kory Polhill

Sewer - Jon Schoenhard

**Trustees**

Administration - Brooke Baldauf  
Health & Environment - Joe Hallstrom  
Police - Christin Keeffer  
Streets - Dean Rood  
Water & Sewer - Brandon Smith  
Zoning - Brian Peight

**Upcoming Events:**

**Trick or Treat: Friday, Oct. 31st 5pm-7pm**

**Small Business Saturday: Saturday, Nov. 29th - Shop Local!**

**Hometown Christmas Activities: Saturday, Dec. 6th @ 4pm**

**Hometown Christmas Parade: Saturday, Dec. 6th @ 6pm**

**Breakfast with Santa: Fire Station - Saturday, Dec. 13th 8-10 am**

**Winterfest Activities: January 30th and 31st**

**Garbage Pick-Up Delayed to Saturday for:**

- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- New Years Day

*For more updates, visit  
[www.gillsfreepor disposal.com](http://www.gillsfreepor disposal.com) or  
download the WasteConnect app!*



**Check out our new  
Village website!**  
[www.villageoflenail.gov](http://www.villageoflenail.gov)

Contact us!  
815-369-4016  
[office@villageoflenail.gov](mailto:office@villageoflenail.gov)  
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*Village of Lena, Illinois*



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