



Village of Lena

Fall/Winter 2026 Newsletter

From the Desk of the Village President



Steve Buss
Village President

We definitely had a season for the books. I'm sure no one had a tornado on their bingo card, but it became a part of our story that we will never forget. The recovery process takes time, but step by step, we continue to clean up, rebuild, and move forward together as a community.

Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to plant 50 new trees throughout the village over the past couple of weeks. We're grateful for the generosity that continues to help make our community a better place for everyone.

Volunteer Park is taking shape! The flag, new sidewalks, light poles, trees, landscaping, and lighting are now in place. Thanks to the generosity and dedication of our community, we're nearly finished.

This construction season has been a busy one, with street repairs, storm inlet replacements and repairs, and water main and hydrant replacements throughout the village.

We are also in the process of securing a \$1.5 million water main grant with Congressman LaHood for next construction season. In addition, we have written and submitted several grant applications for projects on the horizon, including funding for stormwater improvements, a Safe Routes to School sidewalk project, energy updates, and an ITEP grant for pathways connecting our subdivisions to the rest of the community.

While there is still plenty of work ahead, these projects and grant opportunities will help us continue improving our infrastructure and building a stronger village for the future.



Volunteer Park

LE-WIN FFA SCRAP DRIVE

WHEN: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH
8AM - 2PM

LOCATION: PARKING LOT BETWEEN
SUBWAY AND SAPORITO'S

ACCEPTING:

SCRAP METAL, ALUMINUM, CANS,
APPLIANCES

ELECTRONICS & TVS: \$25 EACH

NOT ACCEPTING:

TIRES, MATTRESSES, COUCHES



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4th - Oct. 10th. This is a great time to review fire safety with your family and make

sure everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency. Check your smoke alarms and practice your home fire escape plan!

The Life Safety House will be at the Le-Win Elementary October 7th and 8th from 9-1:30pm, and the School District will also be practicing their fire drills during Fire Prevention Week.



Thank you to our Lena Fire Department!

HAUNTED TRAIL

Fri, October 23rd

Sat, October 24th

Dare to experience the spooky trail walk sponsored by the Lena Lions Club! Beginning at Lena Lions Park, a short wagon ride will take you to and from the trail.

Ticket Sales

\$20 Adults

6:00 - 9:30pm \$15 Kids 16 & under

Fri, October 30th

Sat, October 31st

HALLOWEEN

Trick or Treat will be on Saturday, October 31st from 5-7pm. Halloween Street Closures: The following areas will be closed from 4pm - 7pm on October 31st: West Mason St. from Schuyler St. to Freedom St. and Oak St. from West Mason St. to Locust St. Please be extra cautious during this time to ensure the safety of the trick or treaters.

Lena-Winslow Elementary School trick or treat parade will be held at the football field on Friday, October 30th at 2pm. Hope to see you there!



Supporting the Lena Burial Park

The Lena Cemetery Association cares for our beautiful cemetery on a very modest budget, and rising costs continue to present challenges. Donations to our general fund help us maintain the cemetery and, when possible, offset the costs when a family is experiencing financial hardship after an unexpected loss.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact any Cemetery Association board member or mail your contribution to:

Lena Cemetery Association,
P.O. Box 383, Lena, IL 61048



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 12th from 8-10am

Lena Fire Station, 405 W Railroad St

3 and under FREE

4-9 years old \$7

10 years and older \$9



Santas Helpers 2025



Lena-Winslow Tornado Response & Recovery - Drills Matter

We are very proud of the students and staff, who were able to stay composed, and use the training and drills that have been practiced time and time again to give and receive direction during the tornado to keep everyone safe. While there was

significant damage to some of the structures around the district, there were no injuries - not a single band-aid issued! The district hosted an open house to ensure that everyone had an opportunity to come into the building before school resumed to bring peace of mind and a sense of normalcy to the students. Students and staff, as well as the entire community, have shown resiliency throughout the recovery process. The generous volunteer efforts of our neighboring community members, along with the dedication of our students and staff, have given us all something to be truly proud of. As a new school year continues, the work to repair the structural damage will continue this fall.



Damage to stage wall at Elementary School

Lena Area Historical Museum

The Lena Area Historical Society premiered its new exhibit in August, featuring the history of the Lena Opera House. Built in 1877, the opera house building has been an anchor of Main Street ever since. It was a special building because the second floor remained unchanged since the 1930s. It was seriously damaged by the April tornado and is sadly now slated for demolition. Many historic artifacts were rescued from the building and are now featured in this exhibit.

Several museum buildings were also significantly damaged during the April tornado. Restoration of the two most damaged buildings, the Log Cabin Schoolhouse and the General Store, will begin this fall. We are grateful for the support we have received so far. We are still asking for donations to ensure we can fully restore our museum buildings. Please consider donating if you can, every bit helps!



Lena Opera House Exhibit

Starting in October, the LAHS will be taking orders for its annual Cheese Box Sale fundraiser. Watch our Facebook page for more information about how to order your holiday cheese boxes and support the museum! The boxes arrive in early December and make great holiday gifts.

The Lena Area Historical Museum
427 W Grove St - PO Box 620
Open October through April by appointment.
For more information, call Cindy at 815-369-4030
The museum will resume regular hours in May.



Opera House - 1993

The Giving Tree

Help a family in need by taking an ornament from The Giving Tree!

The Lena Mercantile

Available: November 21st

Return wrapped gifts by December 12th



Fall & Winter Reminders

Hydrant flushing will be October 19th - October 30th. 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 19th.

Leaf Removal will tentatively begin October 20th. 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.

Christmas Parade

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

ACTIVITIES STARTING AT 3:30 PM

4pm: Wagon rides on a luminary lit route, featuring a scavenger hunt, pausing for the parade, and resuming once the parade is complete.

6pm: Lighted parade.

Fun activities for children and adults.

Snacks and drinks available.

Fire pits to stay warm.

Lighting of the Christmas Tree after the parade.

Visit with Santa in the pavillion after the parade.



Christmas Parade 2024

Village President - Steve Buss
Village Clerk - Claudia Simpson
Treasurer - Nicole Callos
Office Manager - Madi Becke
Chief of Police - Brian Lamphere
Officers - Sierra Maurer
 Nick Georgean
 Rachel Lott
 Chloe Grater
 Alexis Simone - part time
 Sean Patridge - part time

Streets Department
 Ben Cheeney
 Andrew Martin
 Brandon Warner
 Kevin Warner

Water Department - Kory Polhill

Sewer Department
 Jon Schoenhard
 Brandt Esling

Trustees

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

Upcoming Events:

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

Small Business Saturday: Saturday, Nov. 28th - Shop Local!

Hometown Christmas Activities: Saturday, Dec. 5th @ 3:30pm

Hometown Christmas Parade: Saturday, Dec. 5th @ 6pm

Breakfast with Santa: Fire Station - Saturday, Dec. 12th 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.gillsfreeportdisposal.com or
download the WasteConnect app!*



LENA COMMUNITY DISTRICT LIBRARY EVENTS

Thur. Oct. 29th 5-6:30pm
Cahokia and the Mississippian
Culture (Free Class)

Thur. Nov. 5th 5:30pm
Book Discussion with Dr.
Nicholas Maxwell

Contact us!
815-369-4016
office@villageoflenail.gov
www.villageoflenail.gov

Village of Lena, Illinois



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