



Village of Lena

Spring/Summer 2026 Newsletter



Steve Buss
Village President

From the desk of the Village President

Dear Residents,

As we look ahead to the summer season, I want to share an update on initiatives underway in our village. Over the past several months, we have been actively pursuing grant opportunities to help secure outside funding for key community improvements.

- IDOT Safe Routes to School Grant – The village has submitted a \$200,000 grant application for new sidewalks and improved routes to the school. Awards are expected to be announced in April.
- FY27 Community Project Funding Request to Congressman LaHood – The village has requested \$1.5 million for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) improvements and \$1.5 million for water main replacements.
- FY27 Congressionally Directed Spending Request to Senator Duckworth – The village has requested \$1.5 million for WWTP improvements and \$1.5 million for water main replacements.
- IEPA Funding Requests – Additional funding is being sought for WWTP improvements, water main replacements, and stormwater improvements.
- Sanitary Sewer Lining Project – IEPA funding is currently being utilized for this project, which has a total value of \$2.69 million and is currently 85% complete.

In addition to these funding efforts, we have a number of projects planned for this summer. From infrastructure improvements to community enhancements, these efforts are intended to address both immediate needs and the long-term goals of our village

We are excited about the progress ahead, and remain committed to keeping residents informed as these projects move forward. Thank you for your continued support as we work to improve and strengthen our community.

----- **NO KNOCK REGISTRY** -----

The village is currently amending Chapter 6 of our ordinances to help limit solicitation within the village. Part of that is creating a “No Knock Registry”. This registry will be given to each permitted solicitor, and they will be prohibited from knocking at any address on the registry.

To include your address on the registry, please call Village Hall at 815-369-4016, stop in at 122 E Main St or email office@villageoflenail.gov

VILLAGE OF LENA ENERGY AGGREGATE CONTRACT

MC Squared Energy Services, LLC (mc²) was selected to serve residents and small business customers with electric supply services. Starting with the June 2026 ComEd meter read cycle, the fixed price will be 10.4¢/kWh for a 23 month term. A mailer will be sent out April 14th with more information.

This will be the village's 6th contract signed while working with Rock River Energy Services with the first starting in October of 2012. The village is pooled with 7 other communities of similar economic scale to receive a competitive rate. All 7 communities review the bids, agree on the best option, and all receive the same contract. If you have questions regarding the Energy Aggregation Program, you may contact Rock River Energy Services at 815-732-4603.

Please be aware that any solicitor who calls, or comes to your door asking you to switch to a supplier is not associated with the Village of Lena, mc² or ComEd.

LBPA Digital Sign

The Lena Business Professional Association (LBPA) is inviting any local non-for-profit organizations to share community events, announcements and updates to be featured on the digital sign above the information booth.



If your organization has something you'd like to promote, please email lenainfosign@gmail.com

Recycling Day

When: Saturday, April 25th 8am-12pm

Where: Municipal lot on W Railroad St

What: TVs, monitors, laptops, bulbs, large/small appliances, printers, phones, bikes, grills, vacuums, holiday lights, car batteries and more!

Proof of Lena residency required

Fees associated with Electronic Disposal

CASH ONLY

A dumpster will be available free of charge.



Visit our Facebook Page for more details!

Northwest Illinois Aerial Combat Memorial

A little over 7 years ago, northern Illinois had the coldest day in its recorded history and a McDonnell Douglas F-4E Phantom II arrived in pieces on two semis from New Mexico. Over the next couple of days, despite the frigid temperatures, it was reassembled and our project was off and running. A small group of veterans with various ties to the F-4 began work to construct a memorial to the many aircrews that flew the hostile skies of the world and the support people that made it possible.



Over the next 6 years a site was donated, a pylon was designed and constructed, the F-4 was prepared and painted and placed atop the pylon. The next year was filled with adding topsoil, installing electricity and lights, concrete work, laying memorial bricks, installing sod, a fence along the railroad tracks and Flag Poles. All of this was done with some expense and a large amount of donations of labor, materials, and services by the citizens and the town of Lena.

The memorial committee would like to express our thanks to the citizens of Lena and the surrounding area for all your support.

Dedication Ceremony

NW IL Aerial Combat Memorial - May 23, 2026 @ 2:00 pm - We hope to see you there!



The fiber buildout continues to move forward! LNA1 and LNA2 fiber neighborhoods are now fully constructed and in service. LNA3 and LNA4 are entering the final phase of construction. The full project is anticipated to be completed in July.



For more information, you can visit jcecoop.com/fiber or call 800-858-5522



2025 Ninja Camp

LENA COMMUNITY PARK DISTRICT

SUMMER REGISTRATION

The Park District is adding online registration for the 2026 season!

In person registrations:

Thursday, April 23rd: 5-7:30pm

Saturday, April 25th: 9am-11am

Online registration

Opens Thursday, April 23rd at 5pm

For more information visit

www.lenaparkdistrict.org

SPRING & SUMMER REMINDERS

- The Village Water Department will be flushing hydrants from April 20th - May 1st. Avoid washing clothes while the hydrants are being flushed in your neighborhood as it can cause discoloration.
- 2025 UTV stickers will expire on April 30, 2026. 2026 Stickers are available at Village Hall. Stop in to renew your UTV permit Monday - Friday from 8am - 4:30pm.
- The village will pick up brush and branches on the 1st and 3rd Mondays from April to October. Putting your brush in a container is not required, but keeps the brush pick up process efficient. Each property is limited to one pile similar in size to a 44 gallon garbage can. No yard waste (grass clipping, plants, anything with green vegetation, etc.), root balls, construction material, shrubbery trimmings, wood with foreign objects or thorny bushes will be picked up. Brush and yard waste can also be dumped at the village yard waste and brush piles. **NO TRASH**
- Grass length should not exceed 8 inches.
- Do not blow grass clippings into the street. This causes blockages in the storm sewers during rain events, which leads to flooding. Please keep the storm sewer inlets free of debris, if you're unable to clear your inlet, contact the village.



Lena Burial Park

The Lena Cemetery Association, with the support of Village of Lena staff, has been making improvements and addressing recent storm damage as we head into the spring season.

Recently, we approved energy-efficient upgrades to the cemetery shop. The building is now heated, allowing maintenance and repairs on equipment to be performed on-site during the winter. This not only provides convenience for ongoing upkeep, but also helps extend the life of equipment while reducing long-term costs.

The March 10th hail and wind storm brought challenges, causing damage to siding and gutters, as well as downing several large tree limbs on the cemetery grounds. Cleanup and repairs are underway, and we are grateful for the assistance of the Village Street's Department in helping address these issues.

We appreciate the continued support as we work to maintain and improve the cemetery grounds.

Contact Lena Burial Park:
PO Box 383
Lena, IL 61048
cemetery@villageoflenail.gov
815-656-0995

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
 Alexis Simone (part time)

Streets Department
 Brandt Esling
 Ben Cheeney
 Andrew Martin

Water - Kory Polhill
Sewer - Jon Schoenhard

Trustees

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

Upcoming Events:

Town Garage Sales - May 9th & 10th

Taste of Lena - June 27th

LBPA Dog Days of Summer Sale - July 17th & 18th

Lena Farmers Market - Saturdays 9am - 12pm May - October

Luann Jordan Memorial Bike & Pet Parade - July 18th

National Night Out - August 11th, 5pm - 8pm

First Day of School - Wednesday, August 19th

Lena Lions Fall Festival - September 11th & 12th

Garbage Pick-Up Delayed to Saturday for:

Memorial Day

4th of July

Labor Day



WasteConnect

For more updates, visit www.gillsfreeportdisposal.com or download the WasteConnect app!

Food Pantry Donations

Please consider donating to our local food pantry at the alley way entrance of 130 W Main St, Lena, IL.

Pantry hours are every Saturday from 8:30am to 11:30am.

**Upcoming Mobile Pantry Schedule
Located in the St Johns Parking Lot
April 28th and May 26th from 3-4:30pm**



Questions? Greg Andrews: 815-541-4840
Rhonda Schoeny: 815-990-5899
lenafoodpantry@gmail.com

Village of Lena
PO Box 607
Lena, IL 61048