

Lynwood

A PROGRESSIVE, GROWING COMMUNITY
OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

C O M M U N I T Y U P D A T E

winter

13

Firefighters Thanked for Years of Service

Three Fire Department officials - John Swanson, John Cobb and Andy Hudson - have contributed a total of almost 65 years of service to the Lynwood community.

Swanson is the Fire Department chief. Cobb is assistant chief, and Hudson is a captain. Swanson will mark his 25th year with the Department in the spring. Cobb has reached his 25th anniversary. Hudson is a 15-year veteran.

"The Village appreciates their dedication to duty and all of their hard work," said Michael Mears, police chief who also is Lynwood public safety director. "These three fire officials deserve the

community's praise and thanks for their efforts to protect and save lives and property," Mears said.

For the past year, Swanson has served as the paid-on-call chief, responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Fire Department.

"We have a great group of fire fighters," Swanson said. "We work as a team."

Pictured Right: Fire Chief John Swanson (center) displays the award he received from the Village for his service with the Lynwood Fire Department. With Swanson are Mayor Eugene Williams (right) and Public Safety Director Michael Mears.



Village Comprehensive Plan Nears Completion

Work on a new Lynwood Comprehensive Plan is in its final stages. Houseal Lavigne Associates of Chicago, a firm that specializes in community planning and economic development, is assisting the Village with the process of creating a plan for the future.

Representatives of Houseal Lavigne will present a plan draft in early 2014 to the Village's Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for input and then to the Village Board.

Public review of the plan project is available via the Lynwood website at www.lynwoodil.us, accessing the link Comprehensive Plan Study for

detailed information. This link allows viewing of the completed Existing Conditions Report as well as Community Workshop and Steering Committee Workshop summaries.

The website link provides citizens the opportunity to give their views about the new plan.

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as the Village's official guide for land use, physical improvements, local services and development. A new plan will provide a foundation for decision-making based on community consensus, community vision, existing conditions and future potentials.

The current plan dates back to the 1970s.

Donors Boost Village Holiday Toy Program

The Lynwood Holiday Toy Drive has been an annual Village Community Relations Committee program since 2010. Donations from Lynwood businesses help support the toy program, this year organized by Village Trustees Lee Hurston and McKinley Dillingham and Village Clerk Karen Wingfield-Bond. The toys are distributed in time for Christmas. Last year two lucky children received bicycles. In this 2012 photo, Wingfield-Bond (right) presents Deylana Pierce with a bicycle while her mother joins the photo event. Village officials anticipate another successful Holiday Toy Drive this Christmas season.



Look Inside

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Message from Mayor Williams

Positive Outlook for State of Lynwood

As the year 2013 comes to a close, I am pleased to report that in my interaction with the community I have received many positive comments and observations about the "State of Lynwood." I believe this encouraging citizen response reflects the fact that Village officials and employees worked hard during the past 12 months to provide Lynwood residents with the local services

they require and deserve.

Our Village team – from Village Board members to the employees in our various departments – is committed to making every conceivable effort to continue the quality of life our citizens expect. A few examples are described in this newsletter, such as Police Department patrols, Fire Department prevention programs, Public Works Department services and brightening

the holiday season for children.

I look forward in 2014 to the completion of a new Lynwood Comprehensive Plan. Work on this major Village plan, which will serve as a guide to community development and growth, is in its final stages. The Village Board expects to announce details of the new Comprehensive Plan in the very near future.

As always, I welcome

suggestions from the community about how we can continue to improve Lynwood. Residents may contact me at the Village Hall at 708-758-6101.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Trustees, I wish a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014 for all.

Eugene Williams

**VILLAGE OF
LYNWOOD**
21460 Lincoln Highway
Lynwood, Illinois 60411

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Eugene Williams

CLERK
Karen Wingfield-Bond
TRUSTEES

McKinley Dillingham William Lebeter
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Village Clerk.....758-6101
Police Dept. Non emergency.....758-6100
Fire Dept. Non emergency.....758-6102
Building Department.....758-6380
Public Works.....758-8434
Emergency.....9-1-1

Village Web site
www.lynwoodil.us

Village Clerk's Office hours:
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday

Mayor Williams Elected Officer of Illinois Municipal League

Mayor Eugene Williams was elected a vice president of the Illinois Municipal League (IML) at the organization's annual conference in October.

Mayor Williams will play a leadership role as a member of the governing board of the IML, which is a not-for-profit, nonpolitical association of 1,124 municipalities in Illinois.

The Illinois Municipal League's mission is to articulate, defend, maintain and promote the interests and concerns of Illinois communities. More than 1,500 mayors and other municipal officials attended the conference, the IML's 100th annual gathering.

I am honored to have the opportunity to be a voice for our community on a statewide level," Mayor Williams said. Williams has served as Lynwood mayor for the past eight years.

Joe Orr Road Project in Phase 2

Cook County is now undertaking the acquisition of right-of-way for the next phase of the project to extend Joe Orr Road through Lynwood to connect with Main Street in Munster. The first phase of the project, construction of a new two-mile Joe Orr Road from Stony Island Avenue to Torrence Avenue, was completed in the fall of 2012.

Phase two of the Cook County roadway project will include extending Joe Orr Road from Torrence east to Burnham Avenue. That roadway section will be just over a mile in length. In addition to purchasing of right-of-way, surveying and engineering work is now underway. The third phase, when completed, will extend Joe Orr Road to Munster.



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Police ATV, Bicycle Patrol Programs Are a Success for Village

The Police Department's summer four-wheel all-terrain vehicle (ATV) and bicycle patrol programs were well received by residents.

"Police officers patrolling on the ATVs and bicycles are visible in the neighborhoods and therefore more accessible to our citizens," Chief Michael Mears said. "Citizens can interact with police officers. As a result of these patrol operations, we received good intelligence

about criminal activity," Mears said. The patrol programs also were successful in traffic law enforcement.

During the warm weather season, the Police Department can deploy two ATV and two bicycle patrols. The ATVs and the bicycles are in storage for the winter, but the four-wheel vehicles can be used in emergency situations. Chief Mears said the patrol programs will be in operation again in the spring.

Police Department Tips for Safe Holidays

The Lynwood Police Department is reminding residents that home burglaries and thefts increase during the holiday season. "The Police Department urges residents to be careful and aware during this busy time of the year," Chief Michael Mears said.

The Police Department offers the following advice:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave home, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a family member or neighbor watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.

- Have a family member or neighbor pick up packages you expect to be delivered to your front door.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.

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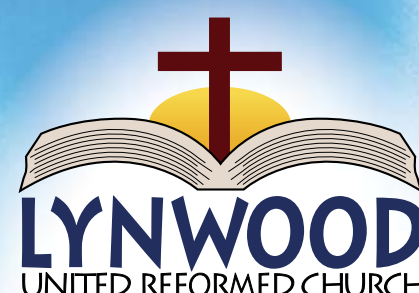


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Living Grace Church

2013 Thanksgiving Campaign "Blessed to be a Blessing" Continuing the Vision of Community Giving

Thanks to all the businesses, schools and residents who committed to bless those in need during the Thanksgiving holiday and graciously filled our food pantry for the first quarter of 2014. As a result of your support we are on target to exceed our goals!

Major contributors to our success were the collective efforts of youth, parents and teachers of Thornton Fractional Schools, Sunnybrook School District 171 and Sandridge School District 172. "During this season of giving, I would like to give thanks to you and your parishioners for your generosity in providing more than 60 Thanksgiving baskets to our needy families! We were taken aback and touched by such a great act of kindness. I look forward to continuing our work together in making a positive difference in the community for years to come." said Thornton Fractional School's Superintendent **Dr. Greg E. Williams**. Sunnybrook School District 171 School Superintendent, **Dr. Hughes George**, also had great words of encouragement. "The families, staff and students of Sunnybrook School District 171 take pride in their ability to assist their fellow community members in being able to enjoy a festive, delectable holiday meal. Furthermore, the Sunnybrook community takes pride in the opportunity allotted to them to teach their students the art of giving during the holiday season."

If you have yet to catch the vision of giving, it's not too late. When you provide non-perishable food, donate online (www.living-grace.org) or drop off your tax-deductible check for \$30 or more, you help us achieve our goal of filling our pantry for needy families through March of 2014. Remember we are the only food pantry serving exclusively to Lynwood residents. Living Grace Church is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Thank you in advance for being such a blessing to help your neighbor!

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Erica Ventress
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The Public Works Department began preparation of its fleet of snow removal vehicles in October to be ready for winter weather. The Department has five large dump trucks outfitted with V-box salt spreaders and 11-foot plows. It also has two one-ton dump trucks complete with plows and

salting equipment.

Public Works trucks push snow from the middle of the street to the curb line onto parkways, and, as a consequence, onto residential driveways. Please remember it is against Village ordinance to shovel or blow snow from a driveway or sidewalk back onto a street.

Snow should be shoveled or blown onto a parkway. Dumping snow on a street could result in a ticket, and it could be plowed right back onto a driveway.

The Department appreciates resident cooperation keeping vehicles off streets during snow events, allowing plow crews to clear the snow.

Winter Is Tough on Mailboxes; Keep Them in Good Condition

The Public Works Department conducted its annual mailbox survey to notify residents of possible mailbox problems that needed to be addressed prior to winter. The survey is designed to alert residents about a mailbox fault that might cause it to be damaged or knocked down during periods of snow plowing.

The Department requests that residents check their mailboxes annually to verify that all parts are connected securely, that the mailbox

is not leaning over a curb (which is a violation of the Village mailbox ordinance), and that it is secured on its post in the ground.

The Public Works Department is not responsible for mailboxes damaged by snow being plowed from the streets to parkways. Snow and slush thrust from a moving plow can strike a mailbox with great force, causing loose parts to fall off and posts to be knocked over if not securely fastened.

Yard Waste, Branch Pickup on Hold

No yard waste or branches will be picked up during the winter months. Homewood Disposal will begin collecting yard waste again in mid-April of 2014. The Lynwood Public Works Department will resume branch pickup Friday, April 18, 2014.

Yard waste must be in

biodegradable paper bags and placed along the curb at the driveway or parkway. No yard waste will be collected if placed in plastic bags. Branches must be cut into six- to eight-foot lengths piled along the curb with stump ends facing the same direction.

Holiday Trash Collection Service

Homewood Disposal observes six holidays during the year: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. If a holiday falls on a Saturday, Homewood Disposal

will observe it on the prior Friday; if the holiday falls on a Sunday, it is celebrated on the following Monday. In a week in which a holiday occurs prior to garbage pickup day, trash collection will be one day later.



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(Pictured above) Public Works employees are prepared to handle the season's snowfalls. Standing in front of the Village's snowplowing vehicles are (from left) Sylvester Robinzine, Grant Luff, Ray Wagner, Sam Garcia and Tony Ferry.



(Above right) Public Works Department mechanic Pete Schulz keeps the snowplowing vehicles in operating condition.

Storm Water and Sewer Drain Alert: Beneficial to All of Us

The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 by the U.S. Congress to control pollutants that were being dumped into our nation's waterways. The Clean Water Act gave the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the authority to set standards for industry pollution. The act also made it unlawful for an individual to pollute a waterway. The Clean Water Act's main goal is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters so they will support fish, shellfish, wildlife and recreation.

Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Help keep pollution out of storm drains. Storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to lakes, rivers, creeks and streams. Oil, leaves, debris and even dirty water from cleaning cars that enter a storm drain get into our waterways. We

all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains.

Many people believe storm drains are connected to sanitary sewer systems and that storm water is treated at sewage treatment plants. This is not true. Storm water is not treated. People carelessly dump many pollutants like motor oil, pesticides and paint into storm drains. Nonpoint source pollution is ranked as a major ecological risk because it poses a significant threat to birds, fish and other aquatic life that live in or rely on waterways.

Please help keep storm drains clean and help keep storm drains clear of debris, especially during storm events. A citizen who sees someone dumping into a sewer drain should please notify the Public Works or Police Departments.

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Long-time Lynwood Businesses Are Thriving Family Enterprises



Two Lynwood family businesses have been serving customers for a total of 55 years. Busch Plastics, Inc., and Preferred Window and Door, Inc., have built a reputation in the Chicagoland region and beyond for their quality products and services.

Busch Plastics, 21706 Lincoln Highway, was established in 1978 by Frank Busch and his wife Debbie. Andy Birkett and his wife Sheryl founded Preferred Window and Door Company in 1994. Today their firm is located at 19716 Burnham Avenue, their third place of business in the Village.

Products in Plastic

Busch Plastics operates a full production facility to create a wide range of products, from single-item decorative pieces to commercial and industrial goods. "We can manufacture products using many kinds of plastics, such as acrylic, polycarbonate, PVC and many more," said Frank Busch, who is company president. "We can cre-

ate a prototype and take it to full production. Our plastic stock includes sheets, rods, tubes and more in all sizes and thicknesses," he said.

"Our firm is a family-run business that offers the professionalism of large corporations with personal, caring service," Busch said. The Lynwood enterprise received television and newspaper coverage for designing and producing giant golf ball sculptures that were on display on Michigan Avenue in Chicago and on the Medinah Country Club course to celebrate the 2012 Ryder Cup golf competition played at Medinah. In 2011 large heart sculptures created by Busch Plastics were displayed on Michigan Avenue during Heart Awareness Month.

Windows and Doors

"Lynwood has been a fantastic place for us to locate our business," said Andy Birkett, Preferred Window and Door president. "The logistics of Lynwood allow us to serve all of Chicagoland and the Northwest Indiana region. We are in the heart of the action being located here," Birkett said.

The company has a window and



(top) The Preferred Window and Door place of business with the firm's fleet of vehicles for providing customer service. Andy Birkett, president of Preferred Window and Door, in the showroom of his business.

(bottom) A display of just a few of Busch Plastics wide range of products, which include decorative items, awards, podiums and window well covers. Mayor Eugene Williams (right) and Frank Busch, president of Busch Plastics, with a giant Lynwood golf ball created by the Busch firm.



door showroom in its recently expanded facility. "The work that we do for Lynwood residents has been primarily window and door replacements and garage door repairs," Birkett said. "Being a local business, we can usually service a broken door within an hour, making for happy customers."



Birkett cites that more than "80% of our jobs are from returning customers and their referrals to friends and neighbors." In addition to the customer satisfaction, Birkett is pleased with the Village's support for business and how Village officials and employees are "very congenial when we need to work with them."



As we celebrate this joyous season, we take a moment to thank you all for everything you do to make our community the greatest in the Midwest. Your joyful spirit and kindness this time of year makes being a Lynwood resident something to be proud of.

We want to wish you all health, prosperity, and season's greetings during the holidays. May your celebrations be bright, and may your 2014 rival your greatest aspirations for a new year.

Happy Holidays,

Mayor Eugene Williams

Clerk Karen Wingfield-Bond

*Trustees McKinley Dillingham, Tim Dunlap, Lee Hurston,
William Lebeter, Willie Sims, Rich Stephens*

and the Dedicated Village of Lynwood Staff

Emergency Services Seeking Community Volunteers

The Lynwood Emergency Services Department is seeking volunteers. Emergency Services Department personnel assist the Police and Fire Departments with traffic control at accidents, fires and other

emergency situations. The volunteers also help police with crowd control at festivals and provide safety patrols at other special events. Additional information or an application is available by phoning 708-935-5796.

Lynwood Chamber Rolls Out Rewards Program to Promote Local Shopping

The Lynwood Chamber of Commerce has initiated a Lynwood Rewards program to encourage residents and visitors to shop local businesses. The Chamber will send Lynwood Rewards emails to persons interested in special offers, exclusive sales and Village business news. It is encouraging residents to sign up at lynwoodchamber-lcc.com/contact. Registrants are requested to enter the word "Rewards" in the comment section on the Web site. A \$100 cash prize will be awarded to a lucky resident who registers for Lynwood Rewards before January 1.



Vernon Park Church of God in Its Final Construction Stages

The nearly finished exterior of the Vernon Park Church of God is now visible south of the new Joe Orr Road, near Stony Island Avenue. The 48,000-square-foot edifice is in the final stages of construction on the church's 73-acre property in Lynwood. The construction of the building is the first phase

of a Vernon Park Church project that could include residential and commercial development, according to Jerry Jones, Lynwood building commissioner. Vernon Park Church, currently located in Chicago, has approximately 1,200 members.

'Tis the season!

Wishing you and your family moments of magic to make your holidays bright. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in the new year.



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The 2014 season for the Lynwood Little League is quickly approaching. We are excited to welcome back our kids who have played in previous years as well as those who have never played. A team sport gives kids an opportunity to develop key skills and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Join us January 25 or February 8 at
Lynwood Annex Building – located behind the
Fire Department - 3107 Glenwood Dyer Rd.
Also a sign up will be held February 1 at
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