

# Lynwood

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

spring

12

## Police Forming Cadet Unit, Activating Bicycle Patrol

The Police Department is forming a police cadet program open to Lynwood residents 16 to 21 years of age.

Police Chief Michael Mears said the cadet program will include both classroom instruction and practical experience. "We are implementing the cadet program to offer local young people who are interested in a law enforcement career an exposure to police work," Chief Mears said.

Residents interested in participating in the cadet program may email Mears at [mmears@lynwoodil.us](mailto:mmears@lynwoodil.us) or Deputy Police Chief Terrence Shubert at [tshubert@lynwoodil.us](mailto:tshubert@lynwoodil.us). Information also is available by phoning the Police Department at 708-758-4744.

Chief Mears also has announced

that the police bicycle unit, which has been inactive for 10 years, will be reinstituted as a community affairs endeavor. "Officers on bicycles will be patrolling neighborhoods throughout the warmer months," Mears said.

"We believe the bicycle unit offers residents additional access to police officers," Mears said. "Citizens are more apt to stop and speak with a policeman on a bicycle than in a patrol car. The program makes officers more accessible," he said.

Mears was appointed recently as police chief after serving as interim chief since September. Shubert also was appointed to his position as deputy chief after serving as a sergeant. Both have been with the



The Police Department's bicycle unit is ready to patrol. In the photo with Mayor Eugene Williams (in suit) and Police Chief Michael Mears (left) are Officers (left to right) Lawrence Weinbrecht, Chris Spierowski, Brian Dongarra and Marcos Tirado.

Department for 10 years.

In other personnel news, Patrolman Jessie Hernandez was promoted to sergeant, Michael Lusk was named to a new position as full-time 9-1-1 coordinator, and three new officers have been hired. The

Village's 9-1-1 program also serves the communities of East Hazel Crest and Thornton. The Police Department has 19 full-time officers and six part-time officers.

SEE ADDITIONAL POLICE NEWS ON PAGE 2.

## 'Scare Tactics' in Home Rule Voting

Lynwood officials believe the failure of two referenda questions on the March 20 election ballot was the result of a negative campaign by the Realtor Association.

Voters defeated the Home Rule Community proposition by a vote of 924 against to 547 in favor. The Village seeks Home Rule authority because there are many advantages that benefit a Home Rule community, such as economic tools to attract development and expand the tax base. (Please see the Mayor's Message on page 2 regarding potential development spurred by the Joe Orr Road expansion project.)

The Realtor Association mailed two negative flyers and conducted Robo phone calling to residents. "The Realtors used scare tactics to

get residents to vote against their own best interests," Mayor Eugene Williams said.

Mayor Williams said there are a number of benefits to being a Home Rule community, including:

- Economic development funds granted annually from the state. Lynwood would receive approximately \$1 million each year.
- Home Rule municipalities receive a higher credit rating.
- Home Rule authority would require sustainability and conservation standards along with green technology from developers.
- If Lynwood successfully attracted a hotel or movie theater development, Home Rule authority would allow the Village to collect a sales tax on dollars spent by tourists.

"The Village Board of Trustees is united in pursuing Home Rule status," Mayor Williams said. Many south suburban municipalities, including Lansing, South Holland, Glenwood and Calumet City, are Home Rule towns.

In addition to the Home Rule question, the March 20 ballot also included a referendum proposition asking for Village authority to "arrange for the supply of electricity for residential and small commercial retail customers." If approved, this authority would have provided energy savings for residents and businesses. The impact of the negative campaign on Home Rule apparently influenced voters on this issue, which also failed to get ballot approval, the mayor said.

## Look Inside

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## VILLAGE OF LYNWOOD

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Village Clerk's Office hours:  
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Wednesday



# Message from Mayor Eugene Williams

I wish to share some exciting news with you that I know will have a tremendously positive impact on our plans for economic development and the creation of a Lynwood Downtown Development District. After years of hard work from many talented and dedicated people, I am happy to tell you that the Joe Orr Road Relocation Project finally has reached the construction stage, with work now under way.

D Construction, Inc., is the contractor that has been approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation for the first stage of construction. The project will be under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Highway Department. The Highway Department's engineering and inspection staffs will be on site to monitor the construction progress.

Underground utility work began east of Stony Island Avenue

extending to Torrence Avenue. Detour and warning signs are erected. All work on this section is scheduled for completion by November 16.

While we anticipate that things will go smoothly, I want to apologize in advance for any inconvenience that the construction might cause. Please remember that this is a major accomplishment for the Village of Lynwood. Many positive things will follow.

I am sure that you have heard me state or you have read some of my comments about how important this project is to the economic development of our community. Once the new Joe Orr Road is completed, it will provide an alternative route to and from Indiana, thereby lessening the traffic flow on U.S. Route 30. At the same time, the roadway will open up

new land for retail and commercial development in Lynwood. Our hopes for a new municipal campus that includes a state-of-the-art community center are suddenly more real than ever.

Lastly I want to take a moment to thank all the people who spent many hours working to move this project forward, including the Lynwood administrative staff, the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Cook County Highway Department and your elected officials. I also want to thank you, the citizens of Lynwood, for your continued trust and encouragement.

If you have any questions or comments, I would be happy to hear from you.

Sincerely,

*Eugene Williams*



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## Police Promotions/Hires



Police Chief Michael Mears (right) and Deputy Chief Terrence Shubert (left) are pictured with Sgt. Jessie Hernandez (center), who recently was promoted in rank, and with new officers Brandon Frazier (next to Shubert) and Lawrence Weinbrecht. Brian Dongarra, also recently hired as a patrolman, was not available for the photo.

## Fire Department Personnel Earn Certification

Three members of the Lynwood Fire Department recently completed an eight-month course at the Fire Chiefs Academy.

Matt Prendergast, Sam Zylstra and Alyssa Zandstra earned the

Illinois State Fire Fighter II certification for successfully fulfilling course requirements. Public Safety Fire Director Rich Eriks said the Fire Chiefs Academy program includes fire fighting classes and hands-on training.



# Lynwood Cleanup Begins May 14

**D**on't miss out on this opportunity to help clean up Lynwood. Place your debris out on the parkway beginning Friday, May 11, for the pickup beginning on Monday, May 14.

Some of the items that can be picked up include:

- \* Furniture \*Metal Items
- \* Clothes \*Boxes
- \* Car Parts \*Debris
- \* Appliances \*Wood Items

**Tires & Electronics can NOT be put out for pick up.**

**ALL DEBRIS BEING PLACED OUT FOR PICK UP MUST BE OUT ON MONDAY, MAY 14 BY 7 A.M.**

(Debris can't be placed out prior to Friday, May 11, and should be placed neatly in the parkway, not in the street.) The Public Works Department will begin picking up debris on Monday, May 14, at 7 a.m. and will continue until all debris is picked up.

PLEASE NOTE: The Public Works Department will make one (1) pass down each street. If your debris

is not out when the trucks pass your address, the Public Works Department will not return.

Calling for a pick up is not required. Just have it out neatly in the parkway no later than Monday, May 14, at 7 a.m. Please remember that there will be only one pass down each street and there will be NO exceptions.

Removal of junk cars will be provided by the Lynwood Police Department with proper paper work. (This service must be requested; please call 708-758-4744).

NO regular household garbage, TIRES or ELECTRONICS will be picked up during this special pick up. Normal kitchen garbage should wait until your regular garbage day. Tires should be taken to proper tire collection companies. Electronics can be taken by residents to the drop off site behind the Lynwood Fire Station at 3107 Glenwood Dyer Road being offered by the Village for this week only.

Paints and oils must be kept

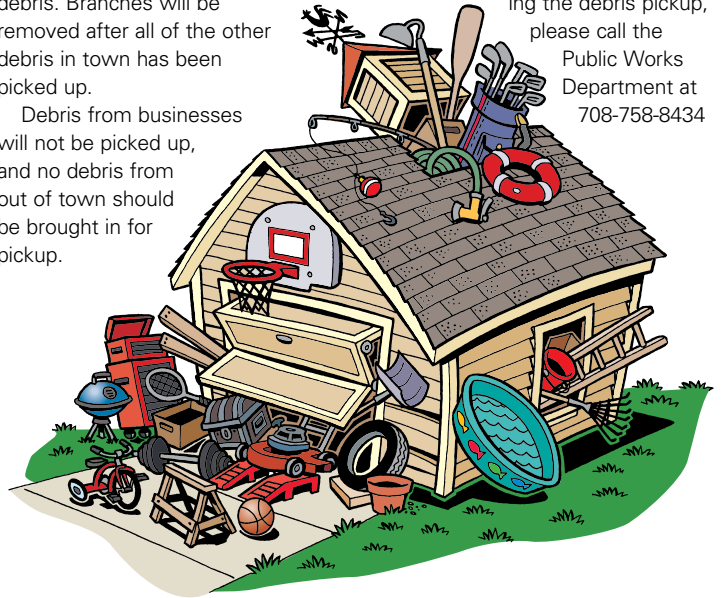
separate from other debris so they can be picked up separately. So please keep old paint cans apart from your other debris.

Yard waste and branches must also be kept separate from other debris. Branches will be removed after all of the other debris in town has been picked up.

Debris from businesses will not be picked up, and no debris from out of town should be brought in for pickup.

Sponsored by: Mayor Eugene Williams, Clerk Roy Valle, and Trustees Tim Dunlap, Lee Hurston, Willie Sims, Rich Stephens, Bill Lebeter & Karen Wingfield-Bond.

If you have any questions regarding the debris pickup, please call the Public Works Department at 708-758-8434



## Time to Purchase Security Alarm Permit

**T**he deadline for renewing the annual permits for residential and business security alarms is May 31.

Village ordinance requires a secu-

rity alarm permit. The fee is \$25 for a residential alarm and \$35 for a business alarm. Starting June 1 the permit fees increase to \$50 for a residence and \$75 for a business.

## Annual Lynwood Fest Is August 25

**L**ynwood Fest, the annual community celebration, is scheduled for Saturday, August 25.

The Village festival will be held at Liberty Memorial Park on Glenwood-Dyer Road. The event will include food vendors, a beer and refreshment tent, and live entertainment by the band Lake Effect. A fireworks show will be held at dusk; rain date for the fireworks will be Sunday, August 26.

This will be the 14th annual community festival. The first event was held in 1999 to celebrate Lynwood's 40th anniversary of incorporation.



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## Eddie, 9, Loves Baseball, Dreams About Playing in the Big Leagues

A Lynwood youngster would love to become a professional baseball player like Curtis Granderson, a Major League Baseball star with the New York Yankees who grew up in Lynwood.

Eddie King Jr., nine years old, plays with the six-team All-Area Giants Travel Baseball League. Eddie previously played Lynwood T-Ball and Little League baseball. His favorite positions are playing first and third base and center field. The All-Area Giants compete at the Ho-Chunk complex's ball diamonds in Lynwood.

His parents are Eddie and Tammy King. "Eddie Jr. loves to watch baseball on TV and knows the players," said mother Tammy. "His dream is to become a professional player. Curtis Granderson is an inspiration to our son," she said. Granderson played in Lynwood's Little League and then achieved out-



standing success as a high school and college baseball player.

Teams in the Travel Baseball League compete in Illinois during the regular season. This summer the All-Area Giants will have the opportunity to play in tournaments in Michigan and Wisconsin. If successful, the team may advance to the Midwest Baseball World Series July 5-8 in St. Louis Missouri.

Eddie is a student at Hickory Bend Elementary School in Brookwood School District 167.

## Emergency Volunteer Help Sought

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 on Halloween and at special events.

Additional information or an application is available by phoning 708-935-5862.

## Pet Licenses

A Village ordinance requires a pet license tag for dogs and cats in order to return a pet if it strays. The pet license fee is \$5. The deadline for obtaining a 2012 license tag is June 30 and are available at Village Hall. Village officials also are reminding residents to clean up after their dogs when taking them for a walk.

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## Lynwood in Lead with Library's Attack on Reading

There are many reasons to visit the Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library this spring. The Library's friendly challenge for young readers of Glenwood and Lynwood, *ATTACK on READING*, ends in May. Currently, Lynwood youngsters are in the lead for the most amount of time spent reading books.

The mayor of the town that records the most reading time will be given a trophy for display in the community's Village Hall. The child who reads the most will receive a special prize. All registered participants will be invited to a pizza party. "Kids, get in your charts so your reading time can be counted," said Library Director Kathy Parker.

On Saturday May 5, the library will be hosting its third annual Spring Celebration – with a rummage sale, Friends of the Library book sale and games for youngsters. The rummage and book sale is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.;



the games will be from noon to 2 p.m. Food will be available for purchase. "There is no reason to go home for lunch. A family can spend the whole day at the library," Parker said.

The library is starting its first community garden this spring. The eight garden plots have been reserved by residents, but if all goes well the library will expand the garden next year so more residents may grow their own vegetables and fruit, the library director said.



The Bookmobile has gotten a new look. Library director Kathy Parker invites you to come on board when you see it in your neighborhood.



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# Helpful Information from the Public Works Department

Robert Myers, Director of Public Works  
708-758-8434

## Pay Utility Bills with Your Credit Card

The Village of Lynwood is offering customers the ability to pay their utility bills by debit and credit cards (Master and Discover Cards only; no VISA) both online and at Village Hall through the Illinois E-Pay system. A convenience fee for each transaction must be charged to customers using this payment method. For online users there is a sliding scale depending on

the amount being charged.

For those paying with credit or debit cards at the Village Hall, there will be a 2.1% fee. These charges are not paid to the Village, but are fees paid directly to the credit card companies as user fees. Please visit the Village website at [www.lynwoodil.us](http://www.lynwoodil.us) and look for the E-Pay link (on left side of Web page) for access.

## Homewood Disposal's Six Garbage Holidays

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

No other holidays will affect garbage service.



## Please Use Safe Needle, Medical Waste Disposal

Homewood Disposal employees have been encountering an increased amount of loose needle and/or medical waste mixed in with garbage, yard waste and recycling material. The disposal firm cautions that improperly discarded needles and medical waste pose a serious health and safety risk to workers who collect and/or sort waste. Needle injuries and contact with medical waste put employees at risk for contracting numerous

diseases.

The Village is requesting residents to please dispose of needles and medical waste properly. A brochure is available at the Village Hall and from Homewood Disposal providing information on safe and proper needle and medical waste disposal methods. Please contact the Village Clerk's Office at 708-758-6101 or Homewood Disposal at 708-798-1004 to request having the brochure mailed to you.

## Yard Waste, Branch Pickup Resumes

Yard waste and branch collection has resumed for the season. Homewood Disposal picks up yard waste on Thursdays. Yard waste must be in biodegradable paper bags and placed along the curb at the driveway or along the parkway. NO yard waste will be picked up in plastic bags.

The Lynwood Public Works Department has a new schedule for collecting branches.

The new 2012 branch pickup schedule follows: The Village section from Glenwood-Lansing Road south to Glenwood-Dyer Road and between Torrence Avenue east to Burnham Avenue will receive pickup service on the first and third Fridays of each month. All other areas of the Village will receive the service on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. There will be no branch pickup on the fifth Friday of a month.

Branches must be cut into six-



Public Works Department employees Sylvester Robinzine (left) and Dan Lebeter remove equipment from the Village's chipper truck in preparation for collecting branches placed by residents for pickup.

to eight-foot lengths piled along the curb neatly with stump ends facing the same direction. Please put twigs and small branches into biodegradable bags for yard waste pickup. Small twig piles will not be picked up by the chipper vehicle for safety reasons.

Yard waste or branches cut or collected by private contractors must be removed by the contractor doing the work.

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# Storm Water and Drain Awareness

The Clean Water Act was passed in 1972 by the U.S. Congress to control pollutants that were being dumped into our nation's waters. The Clean Water Act gave the Environmental Protection Agency the authority to set standards for industry pollution. The act also made it unlawful for any individual to pollute any 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 can support fish, shellfish, wildlife and recreation.

## Be aware: Only Rain in the Drains

Help keep pollution out of storm drains. Storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to lakes, rivers, creeks and streams. Oil, trash, leaves, debris or dirty water from cleaning cars flowing into a storm drain gets into our waterways. We all need to be aware of what goes into our storm drains; awareness is

important.

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 one of the highest ecological risks because it poses a significant threat to the birds, fish and aquatic life that live in our waterways. Please help us keep storm drains clean, especially during wet weather events.

Village officials ask residents who see anyone dumping into curb drains or storm sewers to please notify the Public Works or Police Department as soon as possible.

Residents who see a catch basin or a storm sewer covered with debris should remove the debris to allow the drains to accept water flow.



As the two wind turbines operate in the background, Mayor Eugene Williams at the podium addresses a crowd attending a public presentation about the Lynwood Wind Study Project. Standing with Mayor Williams are officials representing local, state and federal government departments that are participating in the project.

## Wind Turbines, Weather Tower and Renewable Energy

Lynwood has two wind turbines, a weather tower and a meteorological station in operation. The structures and equipment are components of the Lynwood Wind Study Project and are sited on the Village's Municipal Building property on Lincoln Highway.

The Village is studying the wind turbine system's production of renewable energy and collecting weather data for ongoing local wind studies. Jerry Jones, Village building commissioner, said the weather tower is equipped with cameras to monitor the operation of the two turbines, erected in 2011.

The wind turbine operation includes a remote data monitoring system, two weather data collection systems and a Web cam that outputs information to a Web site for viewing.

"The information the Village is obtaining will help determine what is the best equipment and method to

produce energy," Jones said. One of the wind turbines can produce energy at a lower speed. "Data is being analyzed to compare the performances of the turbines under the same wind conditions," Jones said.

"The goal of these studies is to determine what energy savings are possible and to demonstrate to residents and businesses the cost effectiveness of wind turbine energy, which would encourage the installation of additional turbines in Lynwood," Jones said.

Mayor Eugene Williams said the Village plans to explore the possibility of creating a Lynwood wind farm that would offer residents and businesses the opportunity to tap into wind produced energy.

Cook County government selected the Village as a partner in the wind energy project, for which Lynwood received a \$120,000 grant. The U.S. Department of Energy is the project's funding sponsor.

## Vehicle Stickers Expire May 31

Vehicle owners may purchase the 2012-13 Lynwood Village sticker beginning May 1. The 2011-12 sticker expires May 31.

Fees for 2012-13 stickers are as follows: \$40 for an auto, \$45 for a truck three-quarter ton or less, \$50 for a truck more than three-quarter

ton, \$30 for a motorcycle and \$50 for a motor home. A sticker for a senior citizen 65 years or older by June 1 and for a resident with a handicap license plate is \$2 -limited to one per household.

Stickers are available at the Lynwood Village Hall.

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## Board Seeks Feasibility Study for Community Center

The Village Board has approved an agreement with a firm that will prepare a Lynwood community center feasibility study. The study by Madison Realty Group, Inc., of Chicago will be a preliminary step in the Village's potential planning for development of a community center.

Mayor Eugene Williams said the feasibility study will provide a range

of information from bond issue possibilities to the sustainability of a community center. The mayor said the Village has been in contact with ZPD+A Architects of Chicago regarding design work for the prospective project.

The community center could be an anchor for future development of a Village downtown.

## Chamber to Sponsor Community Expo in September

The Lynwood Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a Community Expo on Saturday, September 29.

The Expo will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sandridge School. Local businesses and nonprofit

organizations will be participating. A Chamber representative said the event also will include activities for children. Expo information will be available on the Chamber's Web site at [lynwoodchamber-lcc.com](http://lynwoodchamber-lcc.com).

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