Streetscape emerging

Two way traffic resumed on Main Street in November, and the adjacent block of School Street reopened as one–way westbound. Diagonal parking is available on both sides of Main Street.

Most of the installations are complete on the east side, while finishing touches and infrastructure work at the Garden Walk entry are ongoing on the west side.

To come in spring/summer

Remaining projects to be completed in ’09 should have only a minimal and temporary impact on vehicular and pedestrian traffic:

- Install nature–themed fountain at Garden Walk entry on Main Street
- Install median in center of Main Street, including soil and plantings
- Finish installing trees and plantings; restore grass
- Place a final coat of asphalt on roads
- Install concrete crosswalks
- Install any remaining fencing around planters

As weather allows, work continues on west side of Main.

Decorative street lights support new banners and planter baskets
From the Mayor...

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a safe and wonderful holiday season.

It was great seeing a number of you on December 6 at the Lights of Lisle event. It’s always a great way to jump start the holiday season! I would like to extend a note of appreciation to the local volunteers, organizations, businesses, and Village staff that make Lights of Lisle a treasured community tradition.

During December the Village received 23” of snowfall, resulting in 10 snow plowing events for our Public Works Dept. The Village is committed to keeping the motoring public safe on our roadways. I would like to remind residents that the Village has modified its salt management policy. It balances A) the priority of wintertime safety and drivability with B) reducing the environmental impacts of excessive salting on roadway vegetation and pavement, and tremendously higher costs for salt. During snow events, the Village’s streets are being salted enough to ensure they are safe and passable, instead of salted to bare pavement conditions. A reminder—please slow down and give snow plows enough room to complete their job safely.

As staff finishes assembling the proposed fiscal year 2009–10 budget, the Village Board will be evaluating it during a Village Board Workshop Meeting. Like households and businesses around the country, municipalities are feeling the effects of the economic downturn. However, the Village is continually reviewing its resources and financial position to ensure programs and services are delivered in the most economic, efficient, and effective manner.

In November, the Village Board and management staff met to review 2008 and set goals and priorities for 2009. These priorities include financing for the future, economic development, reviewing the Village’s master development plan, infrastructure (water and sewer) capacity planning, setting sustainability priorities, increased attention on storm water management, and creating a positive environment for development.

When spring weather returns, I would encourage you and your family to walk or ride your bikes to downtown Lisle and take a look at the nearly completed streetscape. (Finishing touches will be added this spring and summer.) Although … the new Garfield Project, expanded sidewalks along Main Street, comfortable benches, and beautifully landscaped planters make for a wonderful destination anytime of year!

New pond created

The Garfield Project, a 4.5 acre naturalized area, has been constructed along Route 53. A two acre pond was created to collect storm water from the downtown area. Over 10,000 plants were planted and lighted fountains installed.

Other features to be completed in 2009 will make the amenity even more inviting. A $400,000 OSLAD Grant will help defray costs.

- Lighted trails around pond
- Children’s play area
- Park amenities
- Gazebo and shelter
- Wetlands overlook

AT&T U-Verse service

Internet protocol–based video service that integrates digital TV, high–speed internet and digital voice service delivered over a fiber network is coming to Lisle neighborhoods.

- AT&T estimates a total of 25 VRAD boxes will be installed throughout the Village.
- The Village has issued 6 Certificates of Compliance for VRAD boxes.
- All 25 VRAD boxes should be installed by the end of 2010.
Mayor’s State of the Village Address

Sustainability Initiatives
- Co–host of the 2008 Sustainable Cities Symposium (more on p. 4)
- Residential CFL light bulb distribution program
- “Rain Barrels of Lisle” program
- Village Employee Sustainability Committee
- Safer Pest Control Project—reduces environmental and health effects of pesticides by promoting safer alternatives
- Native landscape throughout Village facilities and rights–of–way
- Purchase of Energy Star–rated office equipment for municipal facilities

Financial facts
Award for excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for 5th year in a row
Village’s property tax rate lower for the 13th consecutive year
Low debt—only two bond issues
  - $6,000,000 bond issue in 1999 for Police Facility ($2,540,000 currently outstanding)
  - $6,420,000 bond issue in 2004 for Sports Complex ($5,995,000 currently outstanding)
Maintained Bond Rating of Aa2 by Moody’s Investors Service.

Law Enforcement Initiatives
- RedSpeed cameras at Route 53/Maple and Yackley/Ogden
- Current Police News: Link on Village’s website where PD posts surveillance photos and cases soliciting info from public
- Speed Sign Trailer: Slows traffic, educates public, provides traffic counts and speed
- Click it or Ticket and Roadside Safety Checks, funding from IDOT

Bridge Construction
Maple Ave. – DuPage County is replacing bridge over river, to be completed by summer 2009.

I-88 at Rt. 53 – The Village, Morton Arboretum, and Tollway worked together on enhancements to the bridge and retaining walls.

Short St. – Bridge over river is scheduled to be replaced in 2010: preliminary engineering is in progress, 80% paid by federal grant.

2008 Downtown Grants
Façade Grants Awarded
4748 Main Street $19,000
4746 Main Street $58,500
4710 Main Street $22,232
4724 Main Street $19,000
4712 Main Street $24,000
4709 Main Street $3,000
Total Village Grants $145,732
Total Cost of Façade Improvements: $299,387

Retail Grant Awarded
4723 Main Street $9,832
(Triple Threat Performing Arts Studio)
Total Cost of Retail Improvements: $19,665

Flood insurance rating improves
Village efforts have earned a step up in the Community Rating System (CRS) rating for the Village, improving from Class 7 to Class 6. The new CRS rating results in 20% discount on flood insurance premiums for floodplain properties and in 5% flood insurance discounts for non–floodplain properties.

Public Works
Continued commitment to quality infrastructure maintenance
- 1 billion gallons of safe potable water distributed to 5,900+ customers
- 1,460’ of water main replaced
- 3.6 miles of streets resurfaced
- 5,760’ of new curb
- 835’ of sidewalk replaced
- 1100’ of new sidewalk on Larkspur

Downtown business support during construction
Retail seminar for downtown businesses
Six months of marketing support
Grants (Façade and Retail)
Communication updates
Trouble–shooting construction issues
Cost sharing of $126,858 total cost for streetscape private sidewalk improvements

Brush Pick-up
3,611 total homes
1,575 total cu.yds.

Leaf Pick-up
9,322 total homes
5,718 total cu.yds.

2008 French Market
- Location changed to Commuter Lot
- Vendors increased from 24 to 38
- Dedicated onsite Supervisor
- Organic outreach efforts

www.villageoflisle.org
Lisle hosted 3rd Annual Sustainable Cities Symposium

On Friday, October 24, 2008, at Benedictine University’s Krasa Center, the Village of Lisle—along with the Illinois Green Governments Coordinating Council, BU, and the Morton Arboretum—hosted a symposium to address environmental sustainability.

Over 270 municipal leaders from across the state, including Mayor Broda, Lisle’s Village Trustees and the Village’s Employee Sustainability Committee, attended the 3rd Annual Sustainable Cities Symposium. After discussing the Village of Lisle’s sustainability efforts, Mayor Broda welcomed Illinois Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, who gave the event’s keynote address.

The purpose of the symposium was to provide information on sustainability and environmental issues, and encourage idea sharing among communities. The symposium featured a number of presentations including: energy efficiency, wind energy, sustainable community design, reducing air and light pollution, recycling programs for local government, managing stormwater with rain gardens, and creating biodiesel from vegetable oil. According to Mayor Broda, “the event provided a forum for municipal leaders from across Illinois to discuss ways to better serve our residents and businesses, while reducing our communities’ environmental footprints.”

Mid-winter yard planning

Mid-winter certainly isn’t a time for gardening, but it is a great time for reading about and planning yard projects. The Conservation Foundation offers a number of ideas for ways to make your yard more environmentally friendly. Many of them can be small scale improvements. These include planting native vegetation, removing invasive species, and creating butterfly or rain gardens, to name a few. Reducing the amount of lawn area can mean less mowing and applied chemicals, and perhaps this is the year you switch to organic fertilizer.

The goals are to clean up our waterways, provide natural habitat, and create healthy landscapes for people and wildlife. Individual property owners, making improvements on their own property, will contribute to achieving these goals. You really can make an impact!

Visit their website. The Conservation @ Home section is geared to things homeowners can do on their properties to enhance water conservation and the local environment. There is a set of fact sheets on a variety of topics, as well as other helpful information.

www.theconservationfoundation.org

Potential franchisees

If you have ever dreamed of being your own boss, now might be the time to consider becoming a franchisee. Several major fast food chains (some new to the area), are looking for franchisees at this time. The Village of Lisle has numerous ideal sites available, such as the former Burger King site on Maple Avenue just west of Route 53. Franchisees will need to have access to a six figure investment, which varies by franchise. Interested parties should contact Economic Development Director Cathy Schuster at 630-271-4148 or via email: cschuster@villageoflisle.org.

2009 Beau Bien Water and Sewer Rehabilitation

New replacement watermain will be installed on Blackhawk, Black Partridge, Shabbona and Waubansie Lanes starting in March 2009. The existing cast iron watermain constructed in the 1960s is corroding and weakening. There have been a large number of watermain breaks over the years. A new replacement ductile iron watermain with new valves, fire hydrants and house water services will be installed within the road right-of-way.

The sanitary sewer on these same streets will be rehabilitated starting in late winter and continuing into the spring. The work includes lining a large portion of the system to strengthen the pipe and reduce the root blockages and pipe collapses that have occurred. The original clay pipes will be lined with a cured-in-place liner, which will not require excavation. However, a large number of sewer services within the street right-of-way will be repaired or replaced, which will require excavations.

Residents on these streets will receive more detailed written information from the Village’s Engineering Department prior to the start of work. These streets will then be resurfaced this coming summer, after all the water and sewer work has been completed.
Citizens recognized with Pillar Awards

Steve Green & Scott Gumina – Citizenship. These two dedicated teachers have been at the core of music in Lisle public schools and the wider community for a combined 35 years. In addition to working daily with students to perform at various school events, they provide a significant amount of volunteer time to the band at countless community events such as Memorial Day ceremonies, local nursing homes, and free community concerts.

Beth & Erin Weizeorick – Caring. At the young ages of 9 and 12 respectively, these girls have twice grown long hair and donated their hair to Locks of Love. Due to their generosity, these girls have improved the quality of life for cancer patients and others who have lost hair due to illness.

Matt Bucher – Respect. Matt has taken it upon himself to reach out to a boy who has Down Syndrome. When Adam and his brother Christopher moved into Matt’s neighborhood in 2006, Matt befriended both boys and always included Adam in activities. Matt has spent extra time teaching Adam how to play basketball, soccer and other games. He has always displayed a high level of respect for Adam, and encourages others to do the same. It takes real character to have the patience and sincerity Matt shows.

Estella Huang – Responsibility. On her way to the school bus, she found $90.00 lying scattered on the side of the street. Miss Huang did not hesitate to turn the money into the Police Department, where it is being held in evidence. The Lisle Police Department and Character Counts are proud to recognize citizens like Estella, who remind us of the inherent character traits our citizens possess which make our community a great place to live.

Anita Sinha – Trustworthiness. She always watches out for the community’s children who come to play at the basketball hoop and playground set at her home. She consistently cares enough to ensure that the kids are safe, and is recognized for her extra effort in watching out for the children of her neighborhood.

Nominate someone you know!
Help Lisle Community Character Alliance honor individuals, groups and businesses who reflect the six pillars of character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship

The only restriction is that the person nominated must live or work in Lisle. Applications can be downloaded from the Village website. Applications may be submitted anytime. Awards are made twice a year in April and November.
Lisle Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Due to increased environmental awareness, among other reasons, there is an emerging trend for communities to support the use of non–motorized modes of transportation.

This “green” initiative of improving bicycling and walking in the community has many benefits, including:
✓ improved health and fitness
✓ recreational opportunities
✓ transportation alternatives
✓ pollution reduction
✓ improving the community’s overall quality of life and attractiveness.

Early in 2007, the Village Board authorized the creation of the Lisle Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force. This committee made up of local residents, a business owner, Lisle Park District, and Village staff was charged to guide the creation of a Village plan for improving bicycling and walking. Accordingly, the Village is finishing up its planning process for the adoption of its first comprehensive plan for improving bicycling and walking.

In sum, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan includes a total of 34.5 miles of new on–street and off–street bikeway and pedestrian paths. Once approved, the plan will serve as the Village’s official policy guide that outlines bicycle and pedestrian improvements for the community. Some of the major components of the plan include:

Public involvement
On April 15, 2008, a public brainstorming session was held to gather ideas for improving bicycling and walking. Approximately 40 people attended this meeting, and specific lists of public priority improvements were produced as a result of the public input.

Recommended bikeway and pedestrian improvements
The plan includes a variety of bikeway and pedestrian improvements as part of Lisle’s planned bicycle and pedestrian network. Specific bikeway improvements include off–road sidepaths, bike lanes, on–street bike routes (marked with signs), striped bike lanes, and pavement markings. Specific pedestrian improvements include traffic signal activation devices, sidewalks, mid–block crossing improvements for busier roads, signage and crosswalks.

Bikeway and Pedestrian Network
The planned bikeway and pedestrian network represents the recommended bicycle and pedestrian improvements. It establishes a grid of improvements intended to provide a continuous network of bicycle routes and walking paths, connections with various destinations, including downtown Lisle and Community Park, and connections with surrounding communities and to the DuPage County regional trail system. The proposed network is illustrated as a map. An incomplete version in two colors is included here. A complete version in full color is available for viewing and downloading on the Village’s website. Follow links under “In the News.”

Safe routes to school
As part of the planning process, the Village and Lisle Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force interviewed and worked with various school administrators from Lisle schools, grades K through 8. The goal of the program was to identify possible improvements to help facilitate safe walking and bicycling to school. As a result, the Village sponsored an application to IDOT’s Safe Routes to School Program for certain improvements around schools.

Implementation plan
The implementation strategy of the plan calls for the Village to actively seek various funding options, such as grants, for various improvements over a 20–year time period. Also, the Village will be looking into specific policies, ordinances and partnerships to help implement the recommended improvements of the plan. The Village will use the plan as a framework to prioritize and plan projects with available funding.

Find out more
The information depository for bicycling and walking initiatives and updates will be on the Village’s website, under the bikeways section. The Village will continuously update information, including upcoming advocacy events, such as International Bike or Walk to School Week; information on education, encouragement and enforcement that helps inform pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists on applicable safety measures; Regional Trail Systems; Safe Routes to School Program; and future projects.

Any questions on the Village’s bicycle and pedestrian initiatives should be directed to Josh Potter, Village Planner, via email at jpotter@villageoflisle.org or (630) 271-4169.

Report power outages to ComEd
When severe weather causes power outages, ComEd encourages residents who have lost power to report the outage by calling 1–800–Edison1 (1–800–334–7661).

ComEd relies on both its monitoring program at its Emergency Operating Center and customer reports to determine where there are outages. ComEd encourages customers to call every 8–12 hours to ensure restorations do not leave some isolated customers or areas without service.
The Village of Lisle appreciates input from its residents. Request information, or offer suggestions or constructive criticism, on any matter pertaining to Village government. You are invited to use:

- 24 Hour Info Line (630-271-4110)
- email (Lisle@villageoflisle.org)
- this form or a letter (mail to Resident Comment Coordinator, Village of Lisle, 925 Burlington Ave., Lisle, IL 60532-1838, or deposit in the payment drop box at Village Hall)

Comments are invited!

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Submitted by
Daytime phone #
Address
Date
Grants to businesses help transform downtown

On your next visit to downtown Lisle, you may have to blink – twice! Not only is the streetscape transforming the downtown, but the buildings are undergoing their own transformation as well.

Those improvements are being made possible via the Village’s Façade Grant Program. This program was created to fulfill a Downtown Master Plan recommendation that stated that “a key first step toward revitalization of downtown Lisle should be a coordinated program for improving buildings to enhance the appearance of the downtown.”

Six façade grants were awarded in 2008 (more details on p. 3) and five in 2007. The range of improvements made to these buildings included the installation of new brick fronts, lighting, doors, windows, signage, canopies and more. Improvements made mirror the prairie design theme, also recommended by the Master Plan. As each project is completed, downtown Lisle is being transformed into a beautiful nature-based shopping district. Watch for continued improvements into the spring of 2009.

Changing on the inside too!

The Downtown Master Plan also recommended that the Village attract businesses to fill vacancies to make the downtown a viable, exciting shopping district. The Retail Grant Program was created to support this initiative. In 2008, a $10,000 Retail Grant was awarded to Triple Threat Performing Arts Studio and was used to help transform vacant space into a beautiful studio that offers dance, voice, and acting lessons. If you have budding stars in your family, you may want to take them to Triple Threat, located in the Family Square Shopping Center.

In 2007, The Nook also received a $10,000 Retail Grant. It was used to introduce coffee and ice cream, as part of a $100,000+ renovation at that business.

Buy dog tags now

All dogs are required to wear a Village of Lisle tag, in addition to the DuPage County rabies tag. Buy 2009 dog tags ($10) now at the Village Hall Business Office. Bring an up-to-date veterinarian’s certificate of rabies vaccination.

Be sure your dog is “legal”!

Best of the Western Suburbs

Local businesses were among the winners chosen in Suburban Focus magazine’s 2009 Best of the Western Suburbs poll. The more than 3,000 entries covered over 80 categories. Of local note:

Best Burger: #1 Country House
Best Bakery: #1 Upper Crust
Best Daycare: #1 Chesterbrook
Best Sporting Goods: #3 Dick Pond’s
Best View: #3 The View

Many other Lisle businesses made the runner-up lists:

- Mexican Dining—Yerbabuena
- Breakfast—Big Apple
- Casual Dining—The View
- Auto Dealership—Honda of Lisle
- Bike—Bicycle’s etc
- Florist—Flowers of Lisle
- Jeweler—Martin Jewelry

Patronize these Lisle businesses and see why others voted for them!