

# Lynwood Community Update

Incorporated in 1959: 45 years of progress

August 2004

## Ho-Chunk Nation tribe picks Village for entertainment complex

**The Ho-Chunk Nation, a Native American tribe based in Wisconsin, is proposing to develop a huge family entertainment complex here.**

**Mayor Russell Melby said the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce approached him about a year ago informing him that the Ho-Chunk Nation was interested in Lynwood as the site for its development. The entertainment complex would be located on 432 acres at Stony Island Avenue and Glenwood-Dyer Road.**

**Concept plans for the**

**a casino and resort complex in the Wisconsin Dells area, as well as two other casinos and a bingo facility in Wisconsin.**

**U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. is sponsoring legislation in Congress that is the initial step in the process to permit the tribe to operate a casino in Lynwood.**

### **How area benefits**

**The Ho-Chunk Nation entertainment complex would provide Lynwood and the Southland region with an economic engine to rival any undertaking in the past 30 years. Projected job and revenue benefits include:**

**"First, the federal government must designate the 432-acre site as a Ho-Chunk reservation," Cong. Jackson said. "Next, the tribe must negotiate a tribal-state compact with the governor of Illinois to regulate gaming, ensure integrity and establish revenue sharing programs," he said.**

**"I have devoted much of my public life to bringing jobs, economic development and badly needed tax revenue to the Second Congressional District. I support the proposed Ho-Chunk Nation family entertainment center in Lynwood for the same reasons,"**

complex include a casino, luxury hotel, water park, amphitheater, sports facility, spa and this area's only Native American museum. The development would be a major tourism, gaming and convention destination, Mayor Melby said.

"We are excited that the Ho-Chunk Nation selected Lynwood over a number of other communities for their project," Mayor Melby said. The Ho-Chunk tribe currently has

- Approximately \$194 million in wages annually.
- More than 5,000 jobs paying an annual average salary of \$45,000, which would be \$16,000 more than the \$29,000 average wage for the 11 Lynwood region
- Estimated annual payroll taxes of \$78 million
- Approximately \$64 million in wages paid during project construction
- More than \$28 million in payroll taxes on construction wages.

Jackson said.

"I also applaud Mayor Melby for his courageous leadership in this effort," Rep. Jackson said. The Village Board has reviewed the concept plans for the development.

The tribe that is planning the complex changed its name in 1994 from Winnebago to Ho-Chunk Nation. It has federally-recognized status as a Native American tribe.



## More park improvements

Mayor Russell Melby (left) and Trustee Eugene Williams inspect the new play equipment installed at Sonstead Park. The Sonstead Park improvements also include swing and ride equipment at a tot lot and a half-court basketball area. The \$42,000 project is part of the Village's ongoing

park enhancement program.

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## **HELPFUL REMINDERS**

- **Curfew ordinance is enforced**

The Village's curfew ordinance applies to youth 16 years of age and younger. Curfew hours are 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. the following morning on Sunday through Thursday and 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. the next morning on Friday and Saturday. The curfew ordinance is enforced.

- **'Garage Sale1 September 25 at Lakeview Park**

A Village "Garage Sale" will be held 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, September 25, at Lakeview Park. Residents who wish to sell items will pay a \$5 registration fee the day of the sale. The event is open to Lynwood residents only.

- **Garbage, yard waste regulations**

Garbage containers and yard waste bags should not be placed at the curb for collection prior to 7 o'clock the evening before the regular trash pickup day. Residents placing garbage or yard waste bags at the curb at other times may receive a ticket. Also, yard waste must be in biodegradable paper bags. Yard waste in plastic bags will not be collected.

- **Mosquito control program continues**

The South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District provides Lynwood with a spraying

## **No pause in home construction here**

**The sounds of hammer and saw reverberate as Lynwood continues to attract more new home buyers. Subdivisions keep expanding; additional housing developments are on the drawing boards. The latest projects include:**

- **Cardinal Development has plans to construct 185 single-family homes on a 74-acre site on the west side of Torrence Avenue at 201st Street.**
- **Excalibur Construction Company soon will begin building single-family residences in a 90-lot subdivision on the west side of Burnham Avenue between 198th and 201st Streets.**

**Prices of homes in the two new developments**

program to help control the mosquito population. Briquettes designed to eliminate mosquito larvae have been placed in storm sewers for additional protection. Residents are encouraged to take precautions such as eliminating any standing water on their property and using insect repellent when outdoors during the hours mosquitoes are most active.

- **Please stack branches properly for pickup**

The Village will remove and chip branches on Fridays until November 1. Branches should be stacked on the parkway with the stump ends facing opposite the normal street traffic flow. Branches or trees cut by a private contractor must be removed by that contractor.

- **Street light out? Contact Public Works**

The Public Works Department is asking residents to inform the Department about street lights that are not working. Please phone Public Works at 755-7888 with the location of the street light problem. Street lights that are on wooden poles are the property of ComEd. The Village will contact ComEd about problems concerning the utility firm's street lights.

- **Automatic water meter reading soon**

The Water Department is in the process of switching to a new digital water meter reading system. The Village will replace water meters that are read manually with new meters equipped with automatic reading devices. Residents will be contacted about the changeover.

- **Police will ticket vehicles**

**will begin in the mid-\$200,000 range.**

## **Village flag, seal contest**

**A contest to seek ideas for the design of a Lynwood flag and an official seal is sponsored by the Community Relations Committee.**

**Submissions should be mailed or brought to the Mayor's Office in the Municipal Building. Designs should reflect the Village's positive characteristics. The Village Board will make the final selections. Winners will receive a \$50 U.S. savings bond and be recognized at a Village Board meeting.**

## **New officer on force**

Patrolman Eric Wiley is the newest member of the Police Department. Wiley joined the Department recently after serving six years as a police officer in Highland, Ind. He also has previous experience with the Lynwood police force, having worked for two years as a

## without stickers

The deadline for display of 2004-05 Village vehicle stickers was June 30. Vehicle owners who have not purchased a sticker will be issued a citation.

telecommunications officer.

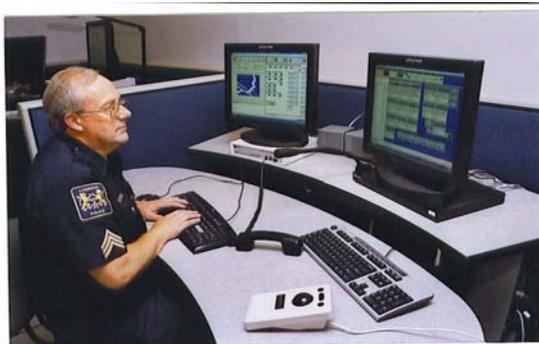
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## Mayor Russell Melby's Message

I wish to assure our residents that the Village Board is doing its homework concerning the Ho-Chunk Nation development proposal. During the upcoming months, development plans will undergo very rigid scrutiny, on the federal, state and local level. There is no question that the entertainment complex will create many economic benefits for Lynwood, and the surrounding region. But there are individuals from outside Lynwood who are spreading falsehoods about the development. We are prepared to keep you informed about this significant enterprise and how it will affect our community. If you have questions, please telephone the Mayor's Office at 758-6101.

## State-of-the-art technology

Lynwood Police Sgt. Greg Szymanski tests new equipment installed in the communications center of the Village.



## Communications Center gets \$700,000 upgrade

## False alarm fines rise

The Village Board has approved an increase in fines levied to dispatch police officers to answer what are found to be false security alarms.

Due to a large rise in residential false alarms, fines will be levied after three false or malfunctioning alarm calls during a one-year period.

An amended security alarm ordinance approved by the Village Board in July stipulates that fines will be imposed on home owners as follows:

- \$50 each time for 4-6 false alarms,
- \$75 each time for 7-9 false alarms,
- \$100 each time after nine alarms.

The Village's communications center has undergone a major improvement with new state-of-the-art equipment.

Police Sgt. Greg Szymanski, who supervised and coordinated the installation of the equipment, said the \$700,000 upgrade and expansion project also includes enhancement of the 9-1-1 system.

U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. (Second District) obtained for Lynwood a federal technology grant to fund

the communications center project.

Szymanski said the communications center serves Lynwood Police and Fire Departments as well as those of Thornton and East Hazel Crest.

With the upgrade, three dispatchers can be on duty at one time in the communications center. Another improvement is a wireless camera network that provides for video monitoring of activity in police facilities, such as processing of prisoners.

## **Grant funds Fire Station exhaust system project**

The Lynwood Fire Station has a new \$25,000 exhaust system. The Fire Department applied for and was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to pay for the exhaust equipment.

Fire Chief Rich Eriks said the Department also has four new fire fighters on its roster. Information about applying for a fire fighter position is available by phoning 758-6102.

The Lynwood Emergency Services and Disaster Agency is seeking volunteers. Applications are available at the Village Police Department.

The ordinance also requires that residents obtain a security alarm registration permit from the Village Building Department prior to the installation of an alarm system. A \$25 application fee for residential alarms will be collected at the time of registration.

## **Festival is August 21**

The Celebration 2004 community festival will be held Saturday, August 21, at Liberty Memorial Park. Hours for the popular annual event are 1 p.m. to midnight.

Attractions will include food vendors, beer tent, and a variety of activities for children, such as pony rides and a petting zoo.

A magic show is scheduled for 5 p.m. The band Retropolitan will take the stage at 7 p.m. A spectacular fireworks show over Liberty Park lake will begin at dusk.

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## NEIGHBORS FORUM

The Neighbors Forum column provides residents an opportunity to speak out about an issue of community concern. Residents may mail their comments or drop them off at the Village Clerk's office (address at top of page). The purpose of the Neighbors Forum is to encourage neighborhood cooperation for a better Lynwood. If appropriate, a Village response to a comment is printed.

Comment: I think many of the fences I see around town are neighborhood eyesores. Is the Village aware of this?

Official response: Village ordinance requires a permit to install a fence. Residents should contact the Building Department for information about fence regulations. Too many or poorly maintained fences give a neighborhood a negative image. The Village Building Department will provide residents with information about alternatives to the fencing of property.



Lynwood village officials join First Savings Bank of Hegewisch directors, executives and employees at a recent ribbon-cutting ceremony for the bank's new full-service office on Glenwood-Dyer Road at Torrence Avenue. From left are Edward Blaszak, a bank director; Cherlyn Simmons, assistant branch manager; Suzanne Barlage, branch manager; Doris Ginalski, corporate secretary; Ann Capanna, president, CEO and board vice chairman; Bernard Dzialakiewicz, director; Mayor Russell Melby snipping the ribbon; Village Trustee Roel Valle; Vincent Ginalski, bank board chairman; Joseph Leszynski (behind Ginalski), director; Edward Petlak, director; Trustee Irv Nicholson, and Edmund Lugowski, architect for the new facility.