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

winter

15

U.S. Route 30 railroad overpass open to traffic

Motorists have been driving on the new U.S. Route 30 overpass bridge at the Canadian National Railway tracks in Lynwood.

Two lanes were opened for traffic last month while construction continued on the bridge. Work on all four lanes, two lanes in each direction, is expected to be finished this month weather permitting.

When the major four-lane overpass project is completed, there will be frontage roads to access businesses along Route 30. A path for pedestrians along Route 30 also is part of the project.

The overpass bridge eliminates motorist delays at the railroad crossing, improving traffic flow and safety. The average daily traffic volume on Route 30 (Lincoln Highway) at the railroad location is



The new bridge overpass on U.S. Route 30 at the Canadian National Railway tracks.

more than 29,000 vehicles.

"Route 30 motorists no longer have to stop and wait for passing trains on this heavily traveled

thoroughfare," said Lynwood Mayor Eugene Williams.

The Canadian National Railway is paying \$23.2 million of the \$29.6

million project cost, and the State of Illinois is providing \$6.4 million. The Illinois Department of Transportation is overseeing the project.



FIREFIGHTER DEMONSTRATION AT OPEN HOUSE

Lynwood firefighters extinguish an automobile blaze during a demonstration at a recent Fire Prevention Week open house event at the Village fire station. More news and photos about the Fire Department open house are on page 5.



Village Hall Holiday Schedule

Lynwood Public Works employees Dan Lebeter (on ladder) and Grant Luff string lights on bushes outside Village Hall to decorate for the holidays. The Village Hall will be open 9 a.m. to noon on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, closed both Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Look Inside

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Message from Mayor Williams

As I reflect back in time on my 10 years as Lynwood's mayor, I am humbled by the trust placed in me by our residents and remain very proud to have the opportunity to serve this wonderful community.

There has been a lot of work to do to continue making Lynwood a great place to live and to continue finding ways to provide the best services possible for our residents. But with the help of my fellow elected officials and our dedicated Village employees, I believe we have made improvements that benefit our community at large while dealing with difficult economic times.

I am always open to what our residents have to say, and will continue to be. If you have questions or suggestions about how we can make our community better, please contact me at the Village Hall, 708-758-6101.

The photograph that accompanies this message was



taken at one of the summer Lynwood R/C Dragway events, held outside the Southland Center sports facility on Stony Island Avenue. The man in cap and sunglasses is a visitor from Australia who is a

fan of the radio control drag racing that takes place at the Dragway. The Lynwood R/C Dragway attracts participants and spectators from throughout the country, such as New York, Oklahoma and Hawaii.

I bring attention to this because it is one of our community's attractions. You may wish to visit the Dragway and see the summer 2016 action. Admission to this family friendly activity is free.

Please note: A special Lynwood lady had a very special day last month. Thelma Grissom-Jackson Day celebrated her 100th birthday! Her story is included in our newsletter.

On behalf of the members of the Village Board, I wish a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016 for all.

Sincerely,

Eugene Williams



VILLAGE OF LYNWOOD

21460 Lincoln Highway
Lynwood, Illinois 60411

MAYOR

Eugene Williams

CLERK

Karen Wingfield-Bond

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McKinley Dillingham William Lebeter

Tim Dunlap Willie Sims

Lee Hurston Rich Stephens

DIRECTORY

Mayor's Office.....758-6101

Village Clerk.....758-6101

Police Dept. Nonemergency.....758-6100

Fire Dept. Nonemergency.....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
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Mayor Williams elected to IML leadership post

Mayor Eugene Williams was elected to serve as Illinois Municipal League (IML) sergeant-at-arms, a leadership position, at the statewide organization's fall conference in Chicago.

As sergeant-at-arms, Mayor Williams is one of three IML officers who make up the executive team. He had been serving as a vice president of the IML's governing board since 2013.

The Illinois Municipal League

is a not-for-profit, nonpolitical association of 1,120 municipalities in Illinois. More than 1,500 mayors and other municipal officials from throughout Illinois attended the annual conference.

Mayor Williams also is a past president of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association and continues to be active with the organization.



Village provides new services

The Village has initiated two new free services for residents.

Village Clerk Karen Wingfield-Bond will visit Lynwood senior citizens at their

homes to provide notary public services. Seniors may schedule an appointment by phoning Clerk Wingfield-Bond at the Village Hall, 708-758-6101, extension 247.

Also, U.S. passport applications are now available at the Village Hall, 21460 Lincoln Highway.



Chamber hosting Winter Wonderland Open House

The Lynwood Chamber of Commerce is inviting residents to visit Chamber member businesses during a Winter Wonderland Community Open House event on Thursday, January 14.

Open house hours will be

4 to 7 p.m. Information about participating businesses and a map showing business locations will be available at the Lynwood Village Hall. The Village is supporting the open house.

"Visitors should begin the business tours by stopping at the

Village Hall, 21460 Lincoln Highway," a Chamber spokesperson said. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be given away during the event.

The Chamber also has issued holiday greetings to the community. "On behalf of all businesses in

Lynwood, we extend best wishes of the joy of family and the gift of friends this holiday season," the Chamber spokesperson said. "The Chamber of Commerce appreciates patronage of local businesses during the past year."

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LYNWOOD'S ANNUAL

Winter Wonderland

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Please Join Us For Our First Ever Community Open House

January 14, 2016 ~ 4pm - 7pm

The journey begins at Lynwood Village Hall (21460 Lincoln Hwy) and we encourage you to continue throughout the town to visit participating businesses.

Participants will be entered into a cash raffle!

Come Say "hello" & Enjoy Refreshments!!

Supported by:
Lynwood Chamber of Commerce & The Village of Lynwood

Lynwood woman, former big band singer, celebrates 100th birthday

Lynwood resident Thelma Grissom-Jackson Day who recently attained the century mark of life has many memories of her successful singing career with famous orchestras.

Mrs. Day, who was born November 21, 1915, in Mississippi, celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends last month. She has been a widow for more than 40 years.

When she was young, she moved to Chicago and became the lead singer for a female trio called the Rhythm Debs, performing at the city's Regal Theater. After that she sang with the Fletcher Henderson Orchestra and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, two renowned big bands playing jazz and swing music.

As a vocalist with the popular orchestras, Mrs. Day performed at some of the most famous venues in the country, including the Apollo Theater and the Cotton



Guest of honor wearing a birthday cake hat.

Club in New York City. She was the featured vocalist with Fletcher Henderson when his orchestra was the first African-American band to play at the legendary Peabody Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. She performed with entertainer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Manhattan. Her singing career took her from Detroit to Key West, Florida.

Today she lives with her daughter Jai Black and is still active. Mother

and daughter have resided in Lynwood for 22 years.

"My mother is fantastic," said Jai Black. "She shops, cooks, does laundry. She has clarity of mind; only arthritis slows her down," she said.

Mrs. Day has been a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for more than 80 years. Presently she is a member of Miller Chapel AME



Thelma Grissom-Jackson Day is at left in this old promotional photo for the Rhythm Debs singers.

Church in University Park.

"Mother was given a gift of voice and has had an incredible God-based life," her daughter said.

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Firefighter demonstrations at open house

Lynwood residents had the opportunity to visit the Fire Department, see emergency and rescue equipment close up, and watch firefighters in action during staged events at an October Fire



In a demonstration, firefighters extinguish a simulated room and contents fire at the Fire Prevention Week open house.

Prevention Week open house.

Village firefighters demonstrated hydraulic rescue equipment used to extricate someone trapped in an auto after an accident. In other demonstrations, they simulated a room and contents blaze and a car fire before putting out the flames.

The open house also featured a smoke trailer, used to teach how to escape from a burning or smoked filled building, and the landing of a University of Chicago medical helicopter on a field behind the Fire Department station. The smoke trailer was provided by the Thornton Fire Department.

Fire Chief John Cobb said the cars used in the extrication and vehicle fire demonstrations were donated by Ray and Wally's Towing Services in Lynwood.

Also participating in the event were Bud's Ambulance Service; Nicor Gas, which provided visitors with gas safety information; First



Firefighters open a car door using hydraulic rescue equipment.

National Bank of Illinois, and Paws Palace. The Police Department's canine unit dog Dante was trained at the Paws Palace facility in Lynwood. The canine unit attended the open house.

Fire Department personnel and

their family members served hot dogs, popcorn and refreshments at the event. "The Department hosted the open house to provide fire safety information and to show the community firefighting operations," Chief Cobb said.

Public Works Department seasonal information

Yard waste, branch pickup will resume in April

No yard waste or branches will be picked up during the winter months. Homewood Disposal will begin collecting yard waste again in April 2016. The Public Works Department will resume branch pickup also in April with new rules and schedules.

Branch pickup next year will be a once-a-month service during the third week of each month. Branches should be placed out along the curb by the Monday of the third week, no later than 7 a.m. because the Public Works chipper truck will make one pass through the entire Village. Public Works offers the monthly branch pickup service to encourage pruning and trimming of trees on the parkway and on private property.

The Village's branch pickup program is intended to assist residents with tree trimming; it is NOT a tree removal service. Residents removing an entire tree must contact a private tree service for disposal of logs and branches. Contractor names may be obtained by contacting the Village Building Department.

Public Works Department prepared for snow removal

The Lynwood Public Works Department began readiness of its fleet of snow removal vehicles in October to be prepared for winter weather.

The Public Works Department has five large dump trucks outfitted with V-box salt



spreaders and 11-foot plows. It also has two one-ton dump trucks with plows and road salting equipment.

The 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 the street. Snow should be shoveled or blown onto a parkway. Dumping snow onto a street could result in a ticket, and it will be plowed right back onto a driveway. The Public Works Department appreciates resident

cooperation keeping vehicles off streets during snow events so plowing crews can do their work.

Mailbox repairs for winter

The Public Works Department is reminding residents to secure their mailboxes for the winter snowfall season. Residents should check their mailboxes yearly to verify that all parts are connected securely, that the mailbox is not leaning over the 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 or knocked down by snow being plowed from streets to parkways. Snow and slush coming from a moving plow can hit a mailbox with great force, causing loose parts to fall off and posts to be knocked over if not securely fastened. Therefore, please make every effort to make those repairs required to secure your mailbox for the snow removal season.

Holiday trash collection

Homewood Disposal, the Village's garbage, yard waste and

recycling service provider, observes the following six holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. When a holiday occurs prior to garbage pickup day, collection will be delayed one day. If a holiday occurs on a Saturday, Homewood Disposal will observe it on the prior Friday; if the holiday falls on a Sunday, the firm observes it on the following Monday.



Utility/water billing process

Payment of Village of Lynwood utility/water bills is due on the 15th of each month, or on the next business day if the 15th falls on a weekend. The billing process begins with water meters remotely read by radio equipment during the last week of each month. The bills are delivered to the post office for mailing prior to the first of every month. If a bill is not paid by the due date, a 10% late fee is added to the bill and the Village mails a reminder notice requesting payment. Failure to pay a bill may result in disconnection of water service.

Village joins library in Read a Book program

The Village of Lynwood is partnering with the Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library for a free Take a Look, Read a Book! program that encourages reading for all ages.

The library is stocking a bookcase in the Village Hall foyer with books. Residents are invited to select a book and return it when finished reading. Borrowing a book is on an honor system, and there are no book return due dates. Residents also may leave a book to



share with other readers.

Additional information about the program is available by contacting Village Clerk Karen Wingfield-Bond at 708-758-6101.

Variety of programs on library schedule

The Glenwood-Lynwood Public Library is offering a number of programs in January and February, including the following:

New Year Fitness Fun - 1 to 2 p.m. Saturdays, January 16, 23 and 30. Focus will be on exercise/fitness and nutrition, for ages 16 and older. Participants should bring water, an exercise mat and wear comfortable shoes. Signup will be 30 minutes before the start of class.

Tell Us Why You Love the Library - February 1 to February 14. Please stop by the special display to state what you love about the library for a chance to win a prize.

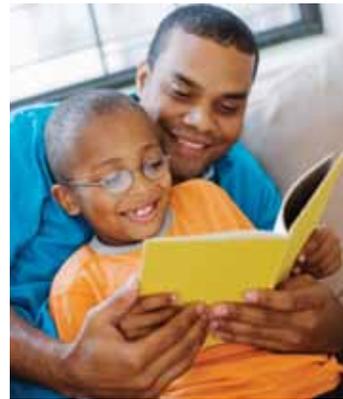


Homebuyer Education Seminar - 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, February 6. Learn about the process of buying and owning a home, condominium or building. Local banking and real estate professionals will discuss how to qualify for free money-down payment and closing cost assistance programs.

Be My Valentine Painting Party - 1 to 3 p.m., Saturday, February 13. A painting class, taught by artist Mary G. Stang, will include supplies. No prior painting experience is required. Advanced registration is required; a \$20 cash fee is due at time of registration. The signup deadline is Friday, February 5. Class limit is 15 participants.

Soul Train Party - 7 to 10 p.m., Friday, February 26. Get out your 1970s soul apparel and dancing shoes for this party featuring music by '70s artists. A soul train line and a costume contest for the most authentic 1970s look will be part of the fun, and a nostalgic way to celebrate Black History Month. For ages 18 years and older.

To register or for more information, visit the library's website at www.glpd.org, or phone the Library at 708-758-0090.



Real Men Read - 11 a.m. to noon, Saturday, February 6. Real Men Read participants volunteer to read to children ages three to 10 and to serve as positive male role models. A major benefit of the Real Men Read program is to encourage children, especially boys, to enjoy books. Please register at the reference desk.

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The Lynwood Community Update is direct mailed to all residents, businesses and PO Boxes in the Village of Lynwood, distribution approximately 4,500.

To showcase your business in the next newsletter, contact:
Christine Reiser at The Times
christine.reiser@nwi.com
(708) 891-0744





Donors and volunteers supporting the Back to School Supply Drive.

Thank you for supporting the School Supply Drive

The annual Lynwood Back to School Supply Drive this year featured a "Sponsor a Seat on the Bus" campaign. Contributors sponsored seats on a school bus to fund the school supplies initiative.

The school supplies were

distributed to students at the Lynwood Fest celebration in August. The Mayor, Village Clerk and Board of Trustees wish to thank Kickert School Bus Company and the many contributors for making this year's Back to School Supply Drive a huge success.

Storm water awareness

The Village requests that residents help keep pollution out of storm drains. Storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to lakes, rivers, creeks and streams. The following advice will help keep storm drains clean of pollution:

- Rake and bag yard clippings to keep yard waste from entering storm drains.
- Pick up pet waste.
- Do not hose down a driveway. Not only is it a waste of water, but hosing washes oil and other matter into drains.
- Dispose of used motor oil properly. Never dump it into a



storm drain or a field. Take it to a service station or collection site for recycling.

- Please notify Lynwood Public Works or the Police Department to report an incident of storm drain dumping. We can work together to protect our bodies of water.

Police Department News



DONATION TO FUND CANINE CAMERA

Lynwood businessman Ronald Schaap (left) presents a check to Police Chief Russell L. Pearson and Deputy Chief Terrence Shubert to fund a specially-built body camera for Dante, the Police Department's Dutch shepherd breed canine member. The camera will record interactions between the canine unit and the public. Schaap, owner of Lansing Auto and Truck Services in the Village, has been holding fund-raisers at the annual summer Lynwood Fest. Schaap contributes the proceeds to the Village for projects and special purchases.



POLICE HOST RETIREMENT PARTY

Lynwood Police Department members held a party for Edward Sealy (center, front), who retired recently after working 22 years with the Village's Public Works Department handling maintenance in all Village buildings, including the Police Department. The police officers presented Sealy with a gift at the event. The party, at Benny's Place restaurant in Lynwood, was organized by Sgt. Jesse Hernandez.

FLAG DISPLAY PART OF RANGE PROJECT

Improvement work on the Police Department's gun range and canine training area has been completed. The project included a new access road, renovation of the shooting stand and another range structure, and the addition of ramps and equipment to the canine training section. A new flag display area shown in the photo also was part of the project. Police Chief Russell L. Pearson said the flag display will include a plaque saluting all U.S. police officers who were killed while on duty.



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