



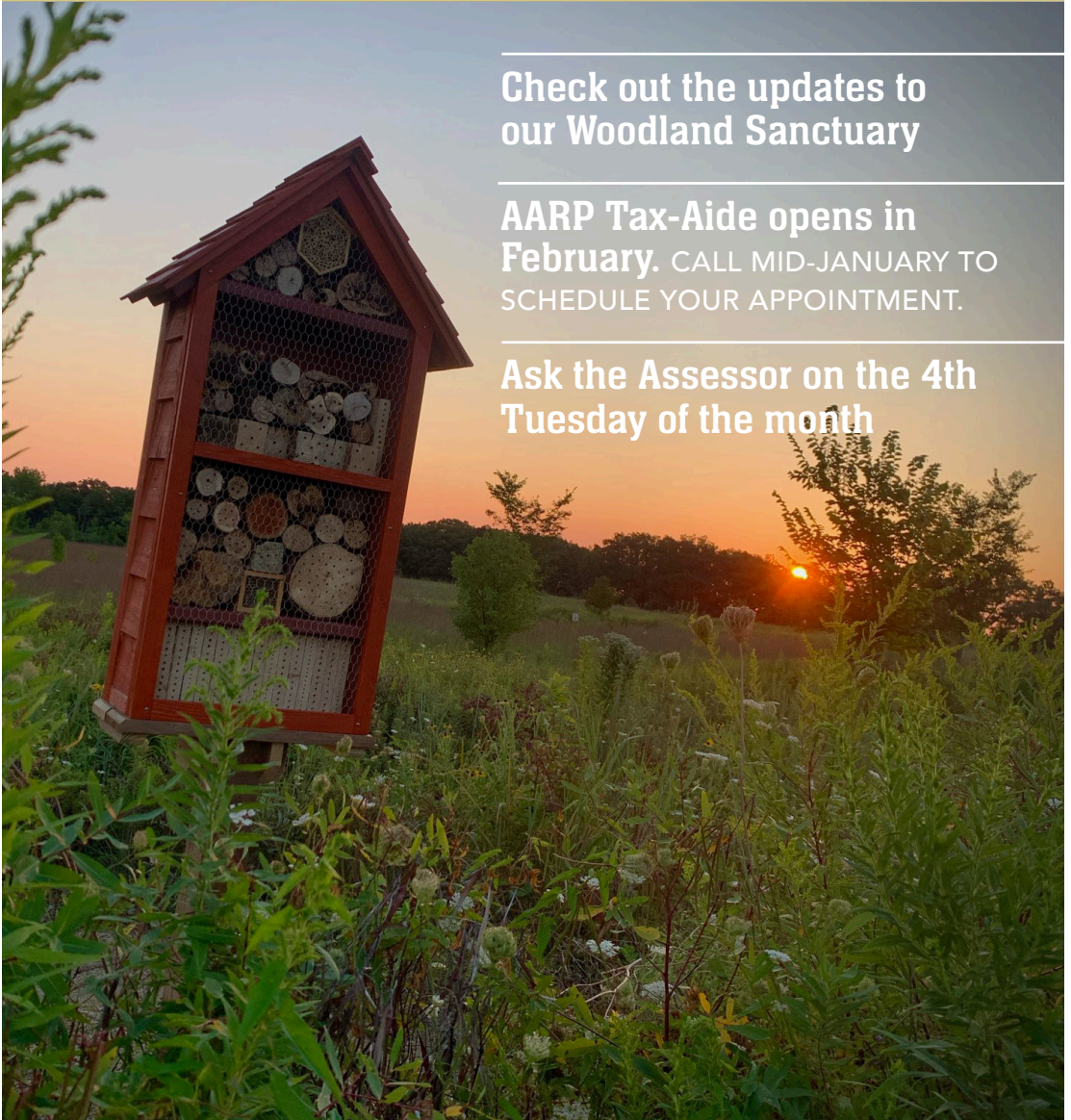
FALL/WINTER 2025 | LEMONTTOWNSHIP.ORG

Lemont Township NEWSLETTER

Check out the updates to
our Woodland Sanctuary

**AARP Tax-Aide opens in
February.** CALL MID-JANUARY TO
SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT.

**Ask the Assessor on the 4th
Tuesday of the month**



16300 ALBA ST. LEMONT, IL 60439 | (630) 257-2522

TOWNSHIP HOURS: Monday–Friday, 9am–4pm (see page 7 for Township closures)

Letter from the SUPERVISOR



Dear Neighbors,

As I look out the window of my office and the other Community Center offices, I am struck by the natural beauty and vista of our valley to the north.

Last spring, I wrote that a working group of citizens and staff members were in the planning stages to study and recommend enhancements to the Heritage Woodland Sanctuary. I am happy to report that they have begun their "study" and have also been physically working to make improvements to our Sanctuary. A Butterfly Garden, and several Pollinator Gardens, have been added to the Heritage Woodland Sanctuary. Also, the Eagle Scouts recently built two "Bee Hotels," which are welcome additions to the honeybee hives already on the property. The existing walking paths were evaluated, repaired where needed and blacktopped. Plans to extend the walking paths throughout the Heritage Woodland Sanctuary are also being assessed.

There are 32 acres of undevelopable land to the north of, but adjacent to, the Heritage Woodland Sanctuary. Plans are currently under development to present to the Village of Lemont that would include annexing this space to the existing Heritage Woodland Sanctuary. This agreement would thereby open space that is currently not accessible or enjoyed by our residents to the same passive recreational uses that the Heritage Woodland Sanctuary provides.

You can help! In addition to attending volunteer maintenance days, you can donate to a fund specifically created for the improvement and possible expansion of our Sanctuary! Please visit and enjoy the beautiful scenery, watch the abundant wildlife, and experience the Heritage Woodland Sanctuary. As always, please contact me with any questions or thoughts.

Michael J. Shackel
Lemont Township Supervisor

Food Pantry

Lemont Township partners with two local food pantries which form the Lemont Township Open Pantries to assist our families in need. Both pantries offer non-perishable food items and gift cards to local grocery stores. Residents must complete an application located at the Township to utilize these pantries.

Bethany Lutheran Church

500 Lemont Street

Tuesday–Thursday: 9:30am–12:30pm

Lemont United Methodist Church

25 West Custer Street

Tuesday–Thursday: 9:45am–11:00am

Lemont Township will offer gift cards to assist with Thanksgiving meals for all active patrons of the Lemont Township Open Food Pantry. Registration is required for this program. Please call the office between October 27th and November 14th to register. Gift card pick up will be November 18th and 19th at Lemont Township.

Financial Assistance

Lemont Township offers two main types of financial assistance: General and Emergency Assistance. **General Assistance is offered to residents who have no income or financial resources and are not eligible for Federal or State Assistance.** This is a financial aid program that helps residents meet basic needs monthly until employment or another source of income is obtained. **Emergency Assistance is a one-time financial aid grant available to qualified individuals and families to help alleviate life-threatening circumstances due to emergencies that have happened outside of their control.**

Emergency Assistance can help with rent, utilities, and other essentials.

Lemont Township is a service extension unit for Salvation Army which provides individual and emergency services including rent, utilities, and other essentials. **The Salvation Army's Sharing Program** also offers Energy Assistance for gas bills which is a one-time yearly grant towards past due gas bills.

Lemont Township partners with **CEDA to offer Energy Services called LIHEAP.** This program offers a one-time yearly grant towards your gas and electricity bill. CEDA's Energy Program opened October 1st and will remain open until August 31st or until funds are exhausted.

Seniors

Reduced-Fee License Plate Stickers



Lemont Township can assist residents with obtaining the Illinois Department on Aging's Benefit Access Program. This allows the Illinois Secretary of State's office to provide reduced-fee license plate stickers from \$150 to \$10 for senior citizens 65 and older and persons with disabilities who meet specific financial requirements. The total Gross Income limit is \$33,562 for a 1-person household or \$44,533 for a 2-person household.

Senior Community Cafe

The Lemont Township Community Center is home to the Lemont Senior Community Café, operated by the Community Nutrition Network and Senior Services Association (CNNSSA). This welcoming space **provides nutritious meals for adults 60 and older**, offering

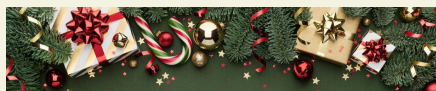
a wonderful opportunity to socialize, enjoy a healthy meal, and participate in a variety of engaging programs throughout the month. Meals are served daily at 11:30am, with a suggested donation of \$3.50 per meal. While we encourage seniors to dine in, pick-up options are available upon request. Additionally, Meals on Wheels services are offered through this location for individuals who are unable to leave their homes. For those looking for some fun, BINGO is played every Monday following lunch for \$3, there are also lots of other daily activities throughout the month. The café is open Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 2:00pm. **To learn more about joining the Meals on Wheels program or visiting the Lemont Senior Community Café, please contact Stephanie Gasca (Site Manager) or Colleen Melchior (Program Assistant) at 630-257-0515.** (Advanced meal reservations are preferred.)

Senior Organizations

Lemont Township hosts two senior organizations, the **Lemont Township Senior Association** and **Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT)**. The Senior Association has been in existence since 1974. The organization's goal is to promote and provide services and activities to enrich the social lives anyone 60 and older. They host monthly meetings on the 1st Monday of the month, along with many other parties throughout the year. Seniors and Law Enforcement Together hosts meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. These

Giving Tree

Lemont Township hosts an annual Giving Tree Program to help families and children in need of Christmas presents. Registration for this program begins October 1st and ends November 7th. You must be registered with the Lemont Township Pantries and email Stephanie Katopodis at stephanie@lemonttownship.org for an application. The Giving Trees will go up at the Lemont Park District Core and Lemont Township lobby in mid-November. Snowflakes will be placed on the trees with a child's Christmas wish. If you are able, please help a family and child in need! Return all gifts to Lemont Township for distribution in December.



*Lemont Township's
Annual Christmas
Giving Tree Program!*

If your family is in need of extra support this holiday season, contact Stephanie Katopodis at 630-257-2522, or email stephanie@lemonttownship.org to learn how to have your family included

meetings allow an officer to come and give an update on any scams or crimes that are happening in the area. After this, each month has a different speaker about topics that may affect seniors.

Both meetings are held at Lemont Township Community Center. If you are interested in becoming a member, come to an upcoming meeting.

Senior Events

November 20th
Friendsgiving Bingo

December 4th
Christmas Party at
Crystal Grand Banquets

December 9th
Frosty Fortune Bingo

January 6th
Winter Warm-Up Bingo



Family Assistance Fund

Please consider donating to our Family Assistance Fund.

This fund offers emergency assistance to our families and seniors in need. You can also donate to our Lemont Township Open Pantries. Make checks payable to Lemont Township and add a memo of who you are donating to. Please send donations to 16300 Alba Street, Lemont, IL 60439.



If you or someone you know needs assistance or has questions, **contact Stephanie Katopodis at 630-257-2522 x 117.**

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

We continue to update our Lemont Township Assessor's Office webpage! Please visit our website at lemonttownship.org/assessors-office to review the updates, sign up for our emails regarding updates, as well as the links to the relevant websites from the Cook County Assessor's Office (CCAO), Cook County Board of Review, Cook County Clerk, Cook County Property Tax Portal, Cook County Treasurer, and the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board. Please remember that we are advocates for our residents; however, we do not process any of the applications.

Property Tax Appeals

The CCAO opened the window for Lemont Township residents to file property tax appeals on July 21st and closed it on September 2nd. On September 30th, the Cook County Board of Review hosted a property tax appeals seminar at the Lemont Township Community Center. The Cook County Board of Review will open for appeals sometime in the Fall of 2025 after the CCAO adjudicates the appeals. As soon as we are aware of the date, we will post it on our website and inform all our channels.

Cook County Tax Bills

As of this report, the CCAO are trying to update their 50-year-old computer system; as a result, the Second Installment Property Tax bills have been delayed. Because the Cook County Treasurer's Office works alongside the CCAO, and the computer

upgrades also affect their office, any refunds due to residents have also been delayed. As soon as we hear any resolutions, we will post them on our website and inform all our channels.

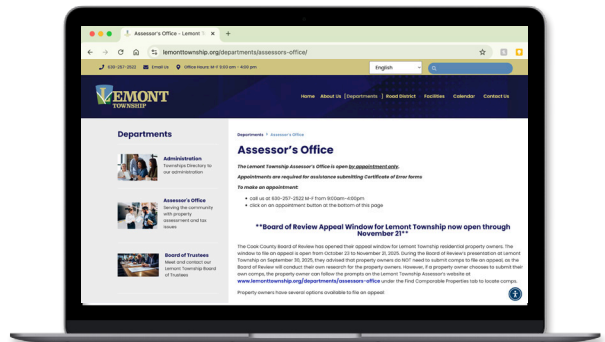


Tax Exemption Seminar

On January 22, 2026, the CCAO will host a **homeowner's property tax exemption seminar** at the Lemont Township Community Center.

Ask The Assessor!

Come join us for **Ask The Assessor!**, which is on the 4th Tuesday of every month from 10:00am to 11:00am at the Lemont Library! The Lemont Township Assessor's team is available for assistance navigating our Township website, which contains the links you will need to claim valuable exemptions, obtain comparable properties, and review your property tax bill through the various Cook County government entities. Participants can bring their own device, or access one of the five laptops Lemont Township donated to the library, on a first-come, first-served basis.



LEMONTTOWNSHIP.ORG/ASSESSORS-OFFICE

GENERAL SERVICES

Waste Management Sticker Credits

The Waste Management Yard Waste sticker program has ended as of April 2025. Please contact Waste Management at 866-909-4458 to set up a new account and/or a credit for any Yard Waste stickers that may have been purchased after the end of the program.

Medical Equipment Lending Closet

Medical Equipment Lending Closet offers gently used wheelchairs, walkers, knee scooters and shower chairs available on a first-come, first-serve basis. We also appreciate donations of gently used equipment. Please call 630-257-2522 to check availability or need.



Warming Center

Lemont Township will assist residents who may need a place to keep warm during the winter months. We are a Warming Center for the community during normal operating hours: 9:00am - 4:00pm, Monday-Friday.

For any questions about General Services contact Lisa Kairis, 630-257-2522 x 100.

RTA Reduced and Free Rides

Lemont Township will assist with obtaining an RTA Reduced and Free Ride application. (You must be enrolled in the Benefit Access Program to qualify.)

Prescription Dropoffs

We are a Cook County Sheriff Prescription Drug Takeback Program site. Residents can drop off unused prescription drugs in pill form only to the secured box located in our lobby. **Pills need to be in a Ziplock bag.**

Highway Department

The Township Road District services all unincorporated areas of Lemont Township. If you have any concerns regarding potholes, poor drainage, blocked roads, or any other issue, please contact the Highway office at 630-257-1155, leave a message with contact information, description, and location of problem or visit our website lemonttownship.org/road-district/report-a-problem.



Glasses & Hearing Aids Donations

Lemont Township collects used glasses and hearing aids for the Lemont Lions Club. There is a drop box located in our vestibule.



Free Tax Prep Help

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides free in-person tax prep. This program runs from early February until April 15. Appointments are required. Please call mid-January to schedule your appointment.



Clerks Office

Hello! I am **Christine Zielke**, your elected **Lemont Township Clerk** since May 2025. As Clerk, I serve as the official record keeper for the Township and am responsible for maintaining all meeting agendas, minutes, and official records of the Board of Trustees. I also oversee all Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests submitted to the Township and Road District.

I am proud to serve alongside Deputy Clerk Lisa Kairis, who supports the daily operations of the Clerk's Office and is also available to assist residents.

Statutory Duties of the Township Clerk

(60 ILCS 1/ART. 75)

- Maintain all Township records, books, and papers, and file certificates or oaths as required by law
- Administer oaths of office for Township officials
- Serve as the local Election Authority for all Township elections
- Annually certify the Township's tax levy to the County Clerk
- Serve as ex-officio Clerk for the Highway Commissioner and maintain Highway Department records in accordance with the Illinois Highway Code

IN ADDITION:

- The Clerk prepares and posts meeting agendas and notices
- Takes roll call votes and records actions of the Board
- Maintains minutes of both regular and closed (executive) sessions
- Attests to all payments approved by the Township Board and Road District
- Witnesses all bid openings for Township and Road District projects
- Serves as FOIA Officer for both the Township and Road District
- Registers voters and accepts petitions for local elections and referendums

As a member of the executive board of the township, I do not vote except in the case of a tie to fill a Board vacancy.

Lisa and I are committed to transparency, service, and accessibility. **Please feel free to reach out to the Clerk's Office at 630-257-2522 X 112 with any questions or requests.** We are here to help.

GENERAL SERVICES

Notary

The Lemont Township can notarize your documents at no cost. Please call to make an appointment and check availability of staff. Monday through Friday 9am to 4pm.



Voter Registration

Lemont Township can assist residents with registering to vote.

**REGISTER
TO VOTE HERE**

**OUR STAFF CAN ASSIST YOU
WITH GETTING REGISTERED!**

FACILITIES



Central Bark Dog Park

Lemont Township has two parks, one for large dogs and one for small dogs, located on Alba Street approaching our Administrative and Community Center building. **Registration of all dogs is required for use of the dog park.**

Annual Fees

**\$30 – Lemont Township
Residents**

\$45 – Non-Residents

Big Beautiful Butterfly Garden

BIG thanks to our Heritage Woodland Sanctuary Advisory Committee. They worked hard on the newly installed Butterfly Garden. Weeding and tending to the beautiful native flowers. The butterflies have been visiting this new garden all summer long! Come by and check it out.





Two New Bee Hotels

Solitary bees are crucial pollinators, often overlooked but essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems. They are known to pollinate more flowers than any other group of insects, providing significant pollination services for crops and ensuring the survival of various plant species. Special thanks to Shane Cutlip, the Eagle Scout leader, who planned, managed, and directed the project to its successful completion. We Love our Scouts!

Woodland Sanctuary

Protect. Preserve. Keep it beautiful!

The Woodland Sanctuary was created to provide a place where visitors can enjoy nature and escape from our hectic, busy lifestyles. Here you will find walking trails that expose you to native plants, restored Illinois prairie grasses and wildlife. We invite you to explore the prairie, tall grasses, or the woodlands today!

Restoration activities, educational opportunities, and special events that focus on enhancing our pollinator plant populations are held throughout the growing season. You can support the improvement and expansion of the Woodland Sanctuary by volunteering or with a monetary donation. Visit our website for details.

Event Rentals

Residents of Lemont Township, as well as non-profit organizations and community groups, can **rent out two rooms at our Community Center** located at 16300 Alba Street. Both rental spaces have modern decor, natural light, expansive views of the Woodland Sanctuary and are conveniently located by I-355. The main banquet hall is 4,200 SF with modern and simple décor. You can accommodate up to 125 for a sit-down dinner reception in this space. The Township boardroom is 875 SF and includes a customizable conference room table, holding meeting sizes of 10-35 people. The Community Center is perfect for your next event! (All use of this building is subject to approval by the Township Supervisor.)



Lemont Township
Community Center
16300 Alba Street

For any questions about facilities or event rentals, or to check availability, contact **Cindy O'Malley at 630-257-2522 x 115**



Woodland Sanctuary

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT



PACE Dial-a-Ride

Curb-to-curb transportation within Lemont Township boundaries. Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 3:30pm. *Advanced reservations are required.*

Rates (CASH ONLY)

Seniors	\$1 per stop
Adults & Children 8+	\$2 per stop
Children 7 & under	Free w/paid adult

Lemont Township Board

Michael G. Shackel, *Supervisor*
Christine Zielke, *Clerk*
Mark Labno, *Highway Commissioner*
Mario Mollo, *Assessor*
Debra A. Blatzer, *Trustee*
Terry Lemming, *Trustee*
David Molitor, *Trustee*
Richard Wilk, *Trustee*

Lemont Township board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, located at 16300 Alba Street, Lemont, IL 60439 in the board room at 7:00pm

Agendas are posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting date on the Township website and the front window of the building. The public is welcome to attend Township Board meetings.

PAGE Vanpool Program (Medical)

Non-emergency, curb-to-curb, medical transportation for appointments that are located outside of Lemont Township **up to 40 miles round trip for Township residents only**. Passengers requiring assistance (wheelchairs, etc.) must have a companion to accompany them. One ride along passenger/caregiver travels at no charge.

Hours of operation

Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

Rates

\$25.00 round trip	1-15 miles
\$30.00 round trip	16-25 miles
\$35.00 round trip	26-35 miles
\$40.00 round trip	36-40 (Max 40 miles)

Cash preferred or check. Please make checks payable to: *Lemont Township*

Reduced rates are available for low-income residents and are approved by the Human Services Department. Although we try to accommodate every request, there will be times it is not always possible.

To schedule rides, contact Marybeth at 630-754-8901

Drivers Needed!

We are always looking for Volunteer Drivers for our Vanpool program (Medical).

BENEFITS INCLUDE: Quarterly Paid Stipend, Paid Training, Flexible Schedule, Use of Township Vehicles & an Opportunity to Serve your Community

If interested in joining our team, please contact Marybeth, Director of Transportation at 630-754-8901.

Remembering Barbara Ann Buschman

Lemont lost a true treasure with the passing of Barbara “Barb” Buschman, who most recently served as Lemont Township Clerk since 2005 until her retirement earlier this year. Barb passed away, surrounded by her loved ones, on September 15, 2025, at the age of 86.

A lifelong Lemont resident, Barb was a familiar face and a beloved neighbor whose energy and kindness touched countless lives. She gave generously of her time and talents, serving 16 years as a Village Trustee before becoming Township Clerk, and contributing to many local committees, historical projects, and service organizations. Her leadership and enthusiasm were instrumental in preserving Lemont’s history while also supporting its growth.

Her many awards and recognitions-including Citizen of the Year, the Lemont Area Chamber of Commerce Women of Distinction Award, and multiple Lions Club honors-reflect the lasting impact of her service. More than anything, Barb will be remembered for her warm spirit, love of family, and unwavering dedication to her community.



Remembering Steven Rosendahl

Steven Rosendahl passed away on September 28, 2025, at 71 years old. Steven was the Lemont Township Supervisor from 2005 until his retirement in 2021. A longtime resident of Lemont, Steven was a devoted husband, grandfather, and public servant. A celebration of life will be held at a future date.

Township Hours

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm

Township Closed

Thursday Nov 27	Thanksgiving
Friday Nov 28	Day After Thanksgiving
Wed, Dec 24	Christmas Eve
Thursday Dec 25	Christmas Day
Thursday, Jan 1	New Year’s Day
Monday Feb 16	Presidents Day



Lemont Township
16300 Alba Street
Lemont, IL 60439