

From: [Village of Lake Bluff](#)
To: [Gail Clotek](#)
Subject: Lake Bluff Letter - December 15, 2017
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Lake Bluff Letter

Winter Solstice Celebration



Join Lake Bluff Open Lands on Sunday, December 17th at 4 p.m. for a [Winter Solstice celebration!](#) Warm up with a bonfire at the Lake Bluff Golf Course. Park to the south of the Park District Building (355 W. Washington) and follow the path west along the southern border. Dress for the weather and bring a warm beverage!

Calendar Events - [View All](#)

Nope. Nothing's going on after Sunday. Enjoy your company, travel safe, and stay warm!

Village News

[Upcoming Community Events](#)



Come one, come all ... to the annual **Pancake Breakfast with Santa** at *Grace United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 16th from 8am-11am*. Enjoy pancakes and sausage before visiting with Santa. Parents: remember to bring your camera. This event is co-hosted by the Lake Bluff Park District and Kiwanis.

[Village Holiday Observances](#)

Christmas - Non-emergency Village Offices will close on Friday, December 22nd and reopen Tuesday, December 26th (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). The Public Works Recycling Facility (640 Rockland Rd) will be closed on Monday, December 25th. Waste collection services will occur one day late during the week of December 25, 2017, but the second collection day for all households receiving a la carte collection services will remain unchanged.

New Year's - Non-emergency Village Offices and the Public Works Recycling Facility (640 Rockland Rd) will close January 1, 2018 and reopen Tuesday, January 2, 2018 (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Waste

collection services will occur one day late during the week of January 1, 2018, but the second collection day for all households receiving a la carte collection services will remain unchanged.

[Lake Bluff Residents, lock your cars!](#)



Residents who don't lock their cars continue to be victims, and Lake Bluff Police officials again urge residents to take their keys and lock their cars. Gang-affiliated criminals have struck Lake Bluff and the North Shore throughout the summer. Often we find these auto-burglaries have one thing in common: **the car is left unlocked**. It takes less than 20 seconds to open an unlocked car, grab what is in plain view, check the usual hiding places for other items, and get away. **How long would it take you to lock your car?**

"We continue to see thieves take advantage of unlocked cars in our community," said Police Chief David Belmonte. "We have increased our night patrols and continue to work with other agencies to stop these criminals, but every car stolen this year had the keys left in it. We are making ourselves targets." The members of the Lake Bluff Police Department encourage these steps to **avoid being a victim**:

- Lock ALL your vehicle's doors and close every window.
- Do not leave valuables in your car.
- If you must leave valuable items in your car, place items out of sight.
- Call the Police Department to report ANY suspicious activities, persons, or vehicles.

Do your part by taking preventive action and spreading the word. You can make a difference.

[Watch Out for Utility Scams!](#)



When being scammed, a customer typically receives an unsolicited phone call from an individual who falsely claims to be a utility representative. The scammer warns that the customer's service will be shut off if the customer fails to make a payment - usually within a short timeframe through a prepaid debit card.

Scammers have even duplicated the upfront Interactive Voice Response system of some utilities, so when customers call the number provided by the scammer, it sounds like a legitimate business. Some of these scammers also use caller ID "spoofing" to replicate a utility's phone number.

Red flags for scam activity

- The scammer often becomes angry and tells a customer his or her account is past due and service will be shut off if a large payment isn't made - usually within less than an hour.
- The scammer instructs the customer to purchase a prepaid debit or credit card - widely available at most retail stores - then call him or her back to supposedly make a payment.
- The scammer asks the customer for the prepaid card's receipt number and PIN number, which grants instant access to the funds loaded to the card.

How to protect yourself

- Utility representatives will never ask or require a customer with a past due balance to purchase a prepaid debit card to avoid disconnection.
- Customers can make payments online, by phone, automatic bank

withdrawal, mail or in person.

- Customers with a past due balance will receive multiple shut off notifications - never a single notification one hour before disconnection.

Don't Get Scammed: You can avoid scams by taking a few precautions:

- Never provide social security numbers or personal information to anyone initiating contact with you claiming to be a utility representative or requesting you to send money to another person or entity other than your local utility providers.
- Always ask to see a company photo ID before allowing any utility worker into your home or business.
- When in doubt, check it out. Be skeptical of individuals wearing clothing with old or defaced company logos. If you have any doubts, ask to see a company photo ID.
- Never make payment for services to anyone coming to the door.

Anyone who believes he or she has been a target of a phone scam is urged to contact the Illinois Attorney General's office toll free at 1-800-386-5438 (TTY 1-800-964-3013) or visit the Illinois Attorney General's web site at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov and click on the link "Protecting Consumers."

If you have a concern about the status of your account, you can contact:

- ComEd 1-800-EDISON1
- North Shore Gas 866-556-6004

Recent Board and Committee Actions

For more information, visit the Village's [meeting packets and videos page](#). Agendas and meeting materials are typically available the Friday before a meeting; videos within a week after the meeting; and minutes after they are approved at the next meeting of the public body. Not all meetings are recorded on video.

Recent Committee-of-the-Whole (December 11):

- Continued discussion of residential beekeeping and chicken keeping pilot programs, and requested formal consideration of the pilot programs at the Board's first January meeting.

Recent Village Board Meeting (December 11):

- Proclaimed December as National Drugged and Drunk Driving Month.
- Received an information report regarding Police Department e-ticketing.
- Granted final approval of:

- Amendments to the Village's Sexual Harassment policy.
- The 2017-2018 property tax levy.
- A variation for 718 Sheridan Road.
- A special use permit, site plan, and variations for 1 Sherwood Terrace and 915 Sherwood Drive (Chevy Exchange).
- Change Order #1 for the Village's Sanitary Sewer Lining Project.
- Received an update regarding the Village's short-term rental policy. A Board workshop on this subject will be held 8 a.m. on Saturday, January 27 in the Village Hall Board Room (40 E. Center Ave.)

There are no other public meetings currently scheduled for the month of December. Have a happy holiday!

In the event that Meeting Agenda links do not properly function, subscribers may find agendas posted on the Home Page at www.lakebluff.org. All Board and Commission [Meeting Minutes](#) are generally approved at the next regular meeting and posted on the website the following day.

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