

Inside this issue:

Board Meeting Highlights	4,5
Brush Collection	6
Dog Tags on Sale	6
Electronic Recycling	3
EMA Director	1,3
Flag Disposal	5
Fourth of July Wrap Up	7
Halloween	6
Leaf Pick-up	8
Memorial Trees	6
President's Corner	1,2
Upcoming Events	8
Water Quality	3
Winter Weather Parking	6



VILLAGE ESTABLISHES THE POSITION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR/COMMUNITY POLICING DIRECTOR/CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

In cooperation with the Beecher Fire Department and Washington Township, the Village has established the position of Emergency Management Director who will oversee the newly established Emergency Management Agency in case of disasters. The Emergency Management Director will also serve as Community Policing Director and Code Enforcement Officer to assure that our Village maintains the high standards we all want within our community.

On September 19th of this year, Denis Tatgenhorst was hired to fill these positions to move our community forward and establish programs to enhance relationships within our community. We welcome Denis to these positions as he brings with him 42 years of police and community policing experience.

In the past, we were not able to provide certain programs for our schools, seniors and the ever growing population of youths of our community. As Director of Community Policing, Denis can provide programs that have been missing in our community. Some of these programs will be geared towards seniors such as phone, homeowner, Medicare and

Continued on Page 3

Village of Beecher

OFFICIALS

Greg Szymanski
President

Trustees:

Scott Wehling
Ronald Kuhlman
Gayle Ahrendt
Jonathan Kypuros
Marcy Meyer
Frank Basile

Janett Conner
Clerk

Lynne Orr
Treasurer

Robert O. Barber
Administrator

Jeffrey Weissgerber
Chief of Police

Harold "Bud" Cowger
Supt. of Public Works

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Cooler weather is finally here. I hope everyone had a good summer. Once again I wanted to answer some of the questions being asked:

What's happening with the Quiet Zone?

The engineering for the railroad quiet zone has been completed and it's estimated to cost as much as \$100,000 to install the required safety equipment at the crossings in town. The board continues to discuss how we can fund this project, but there are rumors that once the election is over, we still may face a cut in our revenues to help balance the State budget. Furthermore, we as well as other forms of government are seeing a downward trend in other revenues. In addition, other priorities have occurred such as sidewalk repair and replacement, removal of hundreds of trees due to the emerald ash borer and other expenses which continue to stretch the budget. I assure you that once we find the dollars to pay for the project, it is my belief that the board will commit the funding to implement the quiet zone.

Is anything happening with some of the empty buildings in town?

Several businesses have opened since our last newsletter. Sophia's Café and Video Gaming at 755 Penfield Street serves sandwiches and other food items, beer and wine, and has video gaming machines. Sit-N-Bull Saloon at 614 Gould Street serves food, is open

Continued on next page

Village President's Corner continued

for lunch and dinner and serves cocktails. The Beatty Lumber site on Church Road was sold to RP Lumber and has since opened. Along with lumber, they have hardware supplies. To my knowledge the work being done in the old Aurelio's building at the corner of Dixie and Pasadena is the property owner making repairs and the building is still for sale.

Work continues on some of the historic buildings on Gould Street and the Village plans to build a wood boardwalk over the existing sidewalk to restore the look of the old downtown to support the new businesses opening in that area. Lighting and other improvements are also planned for that area. On Dixie Highway in front of Walt's, where Reilly's was previously located, the building was turned into a 2 or 3 unit building. Lacey's, a video gaming parlor is the only known tenant. Lacey's will serve food, beer and wine and will have video gaming.

Why are there so many video gaming machines in the Village?

Although I covered this in the last newsletter, it still seems to be a point of discussion. Anyone who intends to have gaming machines in Beecher must serve liquor and food. The number of liquor licenses issued by the Village is controlled by Village Ordinance and is based on population. With that in mind, the number of gaming machines are also controlled by population since you must serve alcohol to have a gaming machine. If you have a liquor license, the Village has no control whether or not the State allows gaming machines if the business applies for a license through the State. As the Liquor Commissioner, at a recent board meeting I asked the Village Board to begin thinking about changing the ordinance to limit the number of liquor licenses and not necessarily base it on population. In doing so, this would limit the number of gaming parlors and gaming machines.

Are you doing anything to encourage residents or businesses to locate in Beecher?

There is interest in three subdivisions in the Village: The Preserves at Cardinal Creek, Prairie Crossings South and Nantucket Cove. The most activity seems to be in Nantucket Cove where Olthof Homes is asking to build in that subdivision. We are often asked what are we doing to fill those subdivisions or bring business to the Village. We are currently offering a \$2,000 credit on their water bill to anyone that builds a new home. In what we call the old downtown area, we offer no fees, such as building permits, special use hearings, and liquor licenses for the first year. We have passed an ordinance to participate in what is called an enterprise zone which qualifies any business who builds or makes improvements to their business would be exempt from sales tax on those improvements. Any industrial business that locates within the Village which occupies over 30,000 square feet, receives 50 percent rebate on the Village portion of their property tax. We are challenged by the current financial status of the State of Illinois, and the close proximity to the State of Indiana, but we are willing to discuss incentives with any business that wishes to locate in Beecher.

Have a safe and warm winter and Happy Holidays!!!

Greg Szymanski
Village President



Sanders Services
Quick Lube and Brakes
Auto Service Center
30449 Dixie Hwy.
Beecher, IL
708-946-6624
We want to drain your oil
not your bank account!
Synthetic Blend Oil Change Starts @ *\$20.99
Full Synthetic Oil Change Starts @ *\$22.99
Present This Coupon For \$3.00 Off Any Oil Change **After Mail In Rebate*
**With This Ad* Discounts & Offers can not be combined Expires on 1/31/2017
Over 17 Years Residential and Commercial Snow Plowing Experience.
Now Signing Snow Plowing Contracts, Call Today For A Price Quote.
www.oilchangebeecher.com www.facebook.com/SandersSvc

Sue Teske
Broker/Associate
Direct 708.946.3106
Fax 781.547.3674
sue.teske@cbexchange.com
COLDWELL BANKER
Serving Illinois and Indiana
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Continued from Page 1

grandparent scams. Information for the younger children will include stranger danger and child lures. Denis will also work with businesses within our community to assist them on keeping their business safe and also offer robbery prevention tips to our banks.

If you would like a topic of concern to be presented by a member of the Beecher Police Department or our new Community Policing Director, please contact Denis at 708-231-2014 or dtatgenhorst@beecherpolice.org to set up a guest speaker.

With the added duties as Director of Emergency Management, Denis will be looking for the community's help in seeking volunteers to assist with special events, traffic control, disasters and shelter management. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, be able to attend a 2-day Community Emergency Response Team class and have no felony conviction criminal record. The CERT classes will help to assist volunteers understand sheltering in place, search and rescue, medical triage, on scene crisis management, how to shut off gas meters and electrical power mains.

If you want to help your community in times of need or a disaster, please consider being a part of our community CERT/EMA team. Applications can be obtained at the Beecher Police Department at 724 Penfield Street between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Residents of Washington Township and the Village of Beecher are encouraged to apply.



Officer Denis Tatgenhorst



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DROP OFF SITE IN PEOTONE

The Village of Peotone is now a designated electronics recycling drop off site. The site is located at 208 E. Main Street in Peotone and is open on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. This site is only open to Will County residents and an ID is required. There is a limit of 2 TV's per vehicle. For more information, to find other recycling sites or learn more about disposal of electronics, household hazardous waste, paint, batteries, etc. visit www.willcountygreen.com.



Protect Water Quality in Your Own Yard in Every Season!

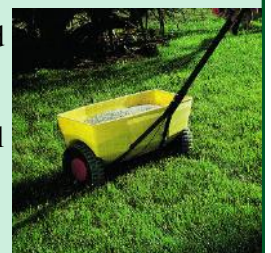
FALL

Gardens need bedcovers. When cleaning out vegetable and flower gardens, don't leave the soil bare for the winter. Use chopped leaves as mulch or plant a "green mulch" to add nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

- Plant! Early autumn is the best time to transplant shrubs and other perennials and to reseed lawns. Choose grass seed mixes that match your site. Consider adding a little clover seed for a free source of nitrogen fixation. Early autumn is the best time for a single dose of fertilizer for good grass root growth and a healthy lawn next spring. Slow-release or organic fertilizers stay where plants can use them and out of the local waters and wells. Keep watering all new plantings until the ground is frozen to give the roots plenty of opportunity to grow.
- Save the leaves. Leaves have lots of landscaping uses. Make a compost pile, chop them and mulch the landscaping and garden beds, or create new beds under the trees from which they fell.

To learn more or report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Beecher at (708) 946-2261.

(Source: Clean Water Fact Sheet, produced by NEMO and Sea Grant Connecticut)



VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2016:

- ✓ Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Beecher Fire Protection District and Washington Township for the creation of an Emergency Management Agency to provide support services when called upon. The Agency will be manned by volunteers and placed under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Police
- ✓ Appointed Denis Tatgenhorst as the new EMA Director, Director of Community Policing and Code Enforcement Officer effective September 19, 2016.
- ✓ Approved a motion combining the Penfield watermain replacement project with the watermain replacements on Elm and Birch. This will make the Village eligible for more low interest loan funding.
- ✓ Replaced the 2002 Ford New Holland TC33 with a 2016 Ford New Holland Boomer 41 from De Jong Equipment for a net cost after trade of \$16,698.50.
- ✓ Granted a special use permit to the Beecher Library District, 660 Penfield Street for a digital sign.
- ✓ Adopted a regional emergency operations plan which includes all of eastern Will County.
- ✓ Replaced a 2013 LX85 skid steer loader with a 2016 LX225 loader from DeJong Equipment for a net cost of \$9,080.28. A three year warranty was also included in the price. The Village would plan to trade in this piece of equipment every three years in lieu of costlier service agreements and tire replacement which would cost more than the trade.
- ✓ Approved by a vote of 4-3 to pay for half the cost of portable security fencing (\$4,456.89) to be used in Firemen's Park.
- ✓ Approved a bid in the amount of \$117,043.23 to PT Ferro for the Safe Routes to Schools grant project. This project is 80% federally-funded.
- ✓ Purchased a vacant lot at the southwest corner of Maxwell and Penfield for \$14,000 which will be made into a parking lot during the Penfield reconstruction project in 2019.
- ✓ Approved a special use permit for a sand volleyball pit at Pin and Tonic, 643 Dixie Highway
- ✓ Approved an ordinance amending the temporary sign code of the Beecher Zoning Ordinance so it is in compliance with new U.S. Supreme Court decision.

Continued on next page



Physical Therapy

- Orthopedics
- Sports Medicine
- FREE Injury Screenings
- Total Joint Rehab
- Work Injury Rehab
- Fall/Balance Program

Franciscan Health - Beecher

989 Dixie Hwy
Beecher, IL 60401
(708) 946-9801

Brett Grandon, PT
Megan Meredith, PTA

Your Goals Can be METT!

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 6:30 pm
Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

METT
THERAPY SERVICES
www.METTtherapy.com



Plum Creek Nature Center in Beecher

708.946.2216 • ReconnectWithNature.org

**Hands-on Exhibits • Camping
Biking • Hiking • Picnicking
Nature Playscape • Sledding**

**Forest Preserve District
OF WILL COUNTY**

Board Meeting Highlights Continued

- ✓ Approved a \$620,000 contract with Baxter and Woodman to design the rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant being mandated by the IEPA. Construction is slated for 2019.
- ✓ Approved the completion of prints for a wooden boardwalk to be installed over the existing concrete in the 600 block of Gould Street to improve the appearance of the downtown area. \$40,000 is budgeted for this project.
- ✓ Approved a seven day loan to the Beecher Fourth of July Commission in the amount of \$25,000 so the Commission had cash to open the festival. The cash shortfall was due to the more rapid progress in completing the storage building project.
- ✓ Approved a loan in the amount of \$350,000 from First Community Bank and Trust at an interest rate of 1.24% to pay for the completion of engineering on the wastewater treatment plant project.
- ✓ Authorized the purchase of a 2017 Ford Explorer for police patrol replacing a 2008 Ford Crown Vic in the amount of \$24,969 from Terry's Ford.
- ✓ Approved the replacement of the 2001 Chevy mini-dump with a 2017 Ford F-450 mini-dump with plow and lighting package for \$55,222 from Currie Motors through the Suburban Purchasing Cooperative.
- ✓ Approved a four year union contract with Local 399 of the UIOE for the Village's public works employees.
- ✓ Approved a bid in the amount of \$22,374.40 from Denler, Inc. for crack sealing of various streets in the Village.
- ✓ Approved a bid in the amount of \$15,855 from AAA Tree Service in Peotone for the removal of 13 dead and dangerous trees on Village parkways which are too large for public works to handle.

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Beecher Village Hall, 625 Dixie Highway. Residents are always invited to attend these meetings. Board meetings can also be viewed on WPAL Channel 4 on Comcast or on YouTube.



BEECHER AMVETS NOW ACCEPTING OLD FLAGS



Beecher Amvets Post 67 located at 532 Gould Street is collecting old U.S. Flags that are in need of disposal. The flags can be dropped in the collection box located in front of the Amvets building on Gould. When an American flag becomes worn, faded, torn or soiled, it should be retired and replaced with a new flag. There are several ways to respectfully dispose of the American flag without showing disgrace. The most common method is burning the flag in a special ceremony but due to the materials in today's flags it can be hazardous to the environment and open burning isn't allowed in the Village. Any questions regarding flag disposal can be directed to the Beecher Amvets.

Need a commercial loan?
We do that!
Call us today!



firstcibt.com | (708) 946-2246



Need a mortgage?
Let's get it done!
Call us today!



firstcibt.com | (708) 946-2246





VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER

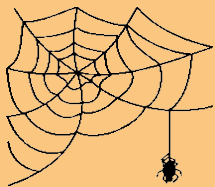
Brush pick-up will be conducted every Monday through November, and begin again in April, 2017. This summer the Village returned to weekly brush pick-up. Brush will not be picked up during the winter months unless there is a storm and then the crews will go out on an as-needed basis. Brush pick-up is not intended for collection of entire trees taken down by a contractor or homeowner. Only routine trimming and storm damage will be picked up.



BE AWARE OF SNOW REGULATIONS DURING WINTER WEATHER

With winter approaching, the Village wants to remind residents that for a period of twenty-four (24) hours after a snowfall of two inches or more, it is illegal to park on any residential Village street or in any business district public parking space commonly maintained by the Village between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. This includes curbed streets and driving lanes but does not include parkways maintained by residents.

It is also illegal to deposit snow onto public streets. When clearing your driveway, direct the snow into the yard and not the street. The Police Department may issue tickets to those that deposit their snow onto the street.



HALLOWEEN



Trick-or-Treat hours are 4-7 p.m. on Monday, October 31st

The Lions Club Annual Weenie Roast will begin in Firemen's Park at 6 p.m. on Halloween.

In addition to the Weenie Roast, the Lions Club will be hosting a pumpkin smash & hayride in Firemen's Park (673 Penfield Street) from 6-8 p.m.



Have fun & be safe! **** Check candy before eating



BEECHER TREE FOUNDATION MEMORIAL TREES

Since the Beecher Tree Foundation's inception in 2002, some residents have decided to plant a memorial tree to remember a special person, date or occasion. These trees have been planted in one of our parks for a donation and the person's name or occasion has been engraved on a plaque in the Village Hall. A tree is a living tribute that stays green for many years to come.

Please contact Ron Kuhlman at the Village Hall at 946-2261 if you would be interested in purchasing a memorial tree.

DOG TAGS GO ON SALE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

Dog tags go on sale at the Village Hall on Thursday, December 1st. The price is \$10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2017. After the March 15th deadline, the price of dog tags increase to \$15 each. The dog's name, breed, color and date of last rabies vaccination will be required to purchase the tag. Dog tag fees are used to pay for the services provided by Dr. McKay and Beecher Veterinary Clinic for picking up, feeding and boarding stray animals and lost pets.



BEECHER'S 2016 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!



Thanks to the weather which fully cooperated this year, the 2016 celebration became the second highest grossing event since the Commission took over the festival from the Beecher Volunteer Fire Department in 2001. Two new buildings welcomed guests to Firemen's Park this year; a new concession stand constructed by Beecher Recreation and a new storage building constructed by the Beecher Fourth of July Commission. At the end of August, the Commission posted \$175,103.66 in total revenue from the festival, and expenses from the festival totaling \$141,679.60. This resulted in a net income of \$33,424.06 from the festival. However, there were \$14,453.59 in Firemen's Park maintenance expenses and \$24,501.26 in materials costs on the new storage building resulting in a net loss of \$5,530.79 for 2016 as of September 1st. This net loss reduced the fund balance for Fourth of July from \$50,843.37 to \$44,730.08.

"We are not out of the woods yet," commented President Chuck Hoehn. "It will take another year or two of celebrations to bring our account balance back up to where we can make more improvements in the park. 2017 may be another make-up year, but we hope to get some of our pathways resurfaced in 2018.

The Commission signed a new three year contract with A+A Amusements of Fairbury, Illinois, and there is one year left on the fireworks contract with Melrose Pyrotechnics. The Commission is already working on entertainment for next year. The carnival may also be moving back to the grass portions of the park next year if the grounds are dry. This will free up some more parking including the handicapped spaces and also reduce the amount of damage done to the fire district parking lot. The celebration will also be running for five days next year, since the Fourth falls on a Tuesday. The Commission thanks all of the volunteers who donate their time to make the festival a success and those of you who come out and support the festival!



Uncle Sam and the Amvet Color Guard



The Fourth of July Commission is accepting applications for Commissioners. The Commissioners are expected to attend approximately one meeting per month throughout the year and are expected to be present during most of the hours each of the 4-5 days the fest is open in addition to park preparation for up to two weeks before the festival. For an application go to the Village's website at www.villageofbeecheer.org.



Families enjoying the animals at the 4-H Expo

(708) 231-6485 755 Penfield St.
Beecher, IL

Sophia's Cafe
& VIDEO GAMING
SANDWICHES · BEER & WINE

\$5.00 FREE Slots
With Purchase Of
A Sandwich &
A Beverage

Valid with this coupon only! Expiration Date 12/30/16

SIT-N-BULL
SALOON

614 GOULD
BEECHER, IL
60401
CALL FOR
PICK-UP
(708) 584-7053

BAR HOURS
SUN. - THURSDAY
11 A.M. - 1 A.M.
FRI & SATURDAY
1200 A.M. - 200 A.M.

KITCHEN HOURS
OPENED DAILY
1200 A.M. - 10 P.M.



Village of Beecher

625 Dixie Highway / P.O. Box 1154
Beecher, IL 60401

Village Hall Hours

Monday thru Friday:
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Village Hall Phone

946-2261

Emergency Police & Fire
9-1-1

Police Non Emergency:
946-2341

Fire Non Emergency:
946-6585

Web Site: www.villageofbeecher.org

E-Mail: clerk@villageofbeecher.org

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER
BEECHER, IL 60401**

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Important
DATE!*

Trunk or Treat • Saturday, October 22nd in Firemen's Park

Trick or Treat hours • Monday, October 31st from 4-7 p.m.

Lions Club Halloween Weenie Roast • Monday, October 31st from 6-8 p.m.

**Veterans 5K Run/Walk & Chili Cook Off • Saturday, November 5th at 11 a.m.
at Cardinal Creek Golf Course**

Youth Commission Nerf Wars • Saturday, November 19th

Breakfast with Santa • Sunday, December 4th beginning at 8 a.m.

Youth Commission Bowling Event • Monday, January 16th

Youth Commission Daddy/Daughter Dance • Saturday, February 11th

Youth Commission Mom/Son Dance • Saturday, April 15th



CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION FOR ENTIRE VILLAGE



Leaf collection is now under way. Leaves raked in rows along the curbside are picked up by a large vacuum machine used by Public Works crews on a weekly basis until the week of Thanksgiving. Residents should place leaves in a pile or row in the parkway between the sidewalk and curb as near to the street as possible. In areas without curbs, leaves should be placed on the grass or parkway at the edge of the street. The leaf machine will make at least one pass per week down each street in the Village.