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Village of Beecher

OFFICIALS

Greg Szymanski
President

Trustees:

Scott Wehling
Jonathan Kypuros
Marcy Meyer
Frank Basile
Stacy Mazurek
Todd Kraus

Janett Conner
Clerk

Donna Rooney
Treasurer

Robert O. Barber
Administrator

Rick Emerson
Acting Chief of Police

Harold "Bud" Cowger
Supt. of Public Works

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION



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.

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to fall. I hope you had a great summer.

Chief Weissgerber

As most of you may know by now, Police Jeff Chief Weissgerber passed away suddenly on October 5, 2017 after a short illness. We would like to offer the family, friends and anyone else that may be affected by this loss our thoughts and prayers. Lieutenant Rick Emerson has been appointed acting Chief of Police while we search for a new Chief.



Taxing Bodies

Recently several Washington Township residents contacted the Village Hall complaining about something in another taxing body's jurisdiction and got quite upset when we said, it was out of our control, and they needed to call that respective taxing body. In Beecher, the School District, Fire District, Library District, Washington Township, Washington Township Highway Department and the Village of Beecher are all separate governmental taxing bodies that govern themselves by their own sets of laws or rules. While all of these taxing bodies must follow Village Ordinances within the Village, in most cases, the Village has no legal right to intervene in any of their governmental business. Also, because of bulk mailing of our Village newsletter, some non-Village residents receive a copy even though they are not located in or regulated by the Village of Beecher.

CSX Intermodal

We have not heard any new information coming out of Crete concerning the CSX Intermodal railyard. In spite of that, we are continuing to ask our legislators and anyone else involved to begin planning to upgrade our roads, create truck routes, and create a truck bypass around Beecher. In our opinion this should have been started 10 years ago, if not more.

Penfield Water Main and Street Project

I apologize for any inconvenience that the Penfield Water Main Project may have caused. The original watermain was installed in 1910 and needed to be replaced. The project is completed but restoration work will be ongoing. In 2020, we are planning on repaving Penfield, possibly adding lighting and other aesthetics. Along with that project, we are planning to create a Village parking lot to the East of the Post Office and at Reed and Penfield since we will no longer have diagonal parking in that area. We are in line for federal dollars to help us complete this project.

Continued on next page

Village President's Corner continued

CVS

One of the biggest surprises of the year was CVS buying DOC's Drugs and then Fagen Pharmacy. In both cases, the Village had no knowledge of it until they called to transfer everything over. Even if we did have knowledge, there was nothing legally we could have done about it. Contrary to the rumors, no incentives were offered, and once again the Village was not involved. Twice I had a discussion with Walgreens coming to Beecher, and I have heard there is a search to bring another pharmacy back to town. I did have conversations with CVS concerning the prescription drug coverage since it appeared a large portion of our residents were affected by the buyout. According to CVS, and verified by other pharmacies, there is an open enrollment period where insurance carriers and pharmacies negotiate and contract with each other to dispense prescriptions. CVS hopes to have this resolved in January, but I have also heard they may resolve it sooner.



Economic Development

Finally, the Village continues to offer incentives to encourage economic development. I too would like to see additional businesses like a coffee and donut shop with a drive thru, a family restaurant somewhere between fast food and fine dining, and a senior living complex etc... In most cases, someone needs to have enough funds to pay for a franchise. Most want existing buildings to fit their needs, and in all cases, there must be enough rooftops in the area to patronize these new businesses or these businesses will not locate here. We will continue to support attracting new business and industry.

Have a safe winter and keep warm.

Greg Szymanski
Village President

MEET YOUR NEWEST ELECTED OFFICIALS

Todd Kraus was elected as Village Trustee in the Spring of 2017. Todd grew up in Dolton and graduated from Thornwood High School in South Holland. Todd and his wife Becky moved from Calumet City to Beecher in 2005. They have three children: Alyssa who is 16; Aiden who is 14; and Ashton who is 12.

Todd has been active in Beecher Recreation sports; coaching T-Ball, baseball and softball and also served as a member on the Beecher Recreation Board. He coached soccer for MYSA and Old Mill Tournament. He also serves as a volunteer member of the Beecher EMA and Beecher Fourth of July Festival.



Stacy Mazurek was also elected as Village Trustee in Spring of 2017. She was born and raised in Steger, Illinois and attended Bloom Trail High School and Prairie State College. She earned her Certification in Medical Billing and Coding and is close to earning an A.A.S. Nursing degree. Stacy and Ron Mazurek picked Beecher as a great place to raise their family.



Stacy and Ron have 4 children: Dylan who is 21; Brittney who is 14; Christian who is 5; and their youngest Noah who is 3½. Stacy is a member of the Beecher Women's Club, the Village liaison to the Beecher Youth Commission and enjoys volunteering at various events and charities throughout the year. She has also been involved with the Dance Committee while her daughter attended Beecher Jr. High School. She currently sits on the board of a "LEAN" project with her employer's healthcare organization to streamline workflows for easy transitioning through the patient experience.

Stacy said if residents have questions or concerns to feel free to reach out to her if you see her in the community or email her at smazurek@villageofbeecher.org.

THE VILLAGE NOW OFFERS THE OPTION OF EMAILING YOUR WATER BILL!

Instead of having your water bill mailed, you can now choose to go paperless and have your bill emailed to you. To go paperless, simply complete and return the form that can be found on our website or email Donna at drooney@villageofbeecher.org and request your water bills be emailed. Please include your name, service address, account number and email address.

We also have the option of auto-draft which would pay your water bill directly from your checking account. You would still receive a bill but your payment would automatically be deducted from your checking account on the due date. There are no convenience fees with auto-draft and you never have to worry about writing a check again!



Choose both emailing and auto-draft and you never have to worry about lost bills or running around to get your bill paid at the last minute!

Go to the Village website at www.villageofbeecher.org or stop by the Village Hall for forms and further information.



VILLAGE FACEBOOK PAGE COMING SOON!



In the coming months the Village will be launching our official Facebook page! The page will be used to update the community about current events, festivals and keep residents informed about timely information. We look forward to connecting with you!

STAY INFORMED WITH NIXLE BY EVERBRIDGE!



Have you ever wondered....why is Route #1 closed?? Or, the sky looks dark - is severe weather coming??

To answer some of those questions and stay informed about other important alerts in Beecher sign up for Nixle alerts. Through Nixle, alert messages are delivered securely to citizens by e-mail and/or cell phone to keep you informed about urgent issues affecting our local area.

The system will be most effective when we have large numbers of subscribers, so please spread the word and sign up for Nixle alerts. Any questions about the service and its capabilities can be answered through Frequently Asked Questions found at <http://www.nixle.com/faqs.html>. You can also go on the Village's website home page and click on the "NIXLE" link at www.villageofbeecher.org to sign up.



RIBBON OF HOPE CANCER AWARENESS GARDEN NOW COMPLETE

The Ribbon of Hope Cancer Awareness Garden was built as a tribute to cancer survivors and victims, their supporting families, friends and caregivers.

In April of 2013, the Beecher Village Board established the Ribbon of Hope Commission. The Commission wanted to create what is believed to be the first of its kind, "Ribbon of Hope" Cancer Awareness Garden. The garden is located at the far northwest corner of Firemen's Park adjacent to Miller Street. The garden is to promote cancer awareness and to provide a place of reflection and renewal to all who visit. If you'd like to purchase a memorial brick for the walkway to the garden, contact the Village Hall at 946-2261.



VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2017:

- ✓ Approved entering into a loan agreement with the IEPA in an amount not to exceed \$10 million for wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation. Terms are being negotiated and construction bids have to be let but at this time a rate of 1.5% fixed for 30 years is being discussed. This will result in an annual payment well within the Village's ability to pay.
- ✓ Tabled a request to extend sewer and water tap-in fee waivers for an additional 10 years in the Fieldgate Subdivision, located on Church Road east of Cardinal Creek Boulevard behind the Beecher Junior High School. This subdivision has not yet been developed and the current expiration date is in 2024.
- ✓ Approved the elimination of a due-to from the Park Fund to the General Fund in the amount of \$176,138 which was money loaned to the Park Account from the General Account for the completion of improvements in Firemen's Park in 2007. This will allow any future fees collected for parks to be placed into the Park Account.
- ✓ Approved the appraisals of all Village buildings and structures by Dunn and Phelps in the amount of \$3,515 for the purpose of establishing insured values and asset management requirements of the Village's financial audit.
- ✓ Approved a special use permit for an off-premise advertising sign at 548 Dixie Highway for Sophia's Café, located at 759 Penfield.
- ✓ Approved a budget for FY 2017/2018. Go to the Village website to view the budget in its entirety.
- ✓ Approved the low bid of a Dodge Challenger SXT in the amount of \$23,976 from Pearl Chrysler of Peotone for purchase by the Fourth of July Commission as the 2017 raffle car. Proceeds from the festival pay for the car and not Village funds.
- ✓ Approved a three year contract with Melrose Pyrotechnics for \$30,000 per year for the annual fireworks display. Proceeds from the festival pay for the fireworks and not Village funds.
- ✓ Approved a special use for outdoor seating and dining at the Gould Vault, 618 Gould Street.
- ✓ Approved a variance for a solid fence in a front yard setback of a corner lot at 159 Bald Eagle.
- ✓ Approved an intergovernmental agreement for continuing the electric aggregation program for residential customers in the Village through September 30, 2018. Consequently, the Will County member municipalities in the program signed a contract with Dynegy, Inc. at a rate slightly lower than the ComEd rate for the same period of time.

Continued on next page



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Board Meeting Highlights Continued


- ✓ Awarded a bid in the amount of \$42,900 to T+K Construction of Beecher for the installation of a wood boardwalk on the west side of Gould Street from Penfield to Hodges.
- ✓ Approved a motion requesting a traffic study and survey on the potential closing of the Hodges Street railroad crossing.
- ✓ Directed the Economic Development and Community Relations Committee to either recommend a Sesquicentennial Celebration Plan or form a Commission prior to the Village's 150th birthday in 2020.
- ✓ Granted an easement to ComEd for replacing power poles and lines in front of Village property at 625 Dixie Highway.
- ✓ Learned that the Village's Standard and Poors bond rating had dropped from a AA+ Strong Outlook to an AA Negative Outlook effective 7/1/17. This is due the Village's more aggressive use of cash reserves for capital projects, the lack of commercial and residential growth in the last three years, and the lack of a State of Illinois budget or fiscal plan of which the Village has no control. Despite the downgrade, the Village still retains a higher bond rating than it had in 2009 which was an A+.
- ✓ Approved a change in the zoning ordinance outlining permitted and special use requirements for solar panels in all zoning districts of the Village. These changes were made to address new technologies emerging in this field and the increased demand for renewable green energy.
- ✓ Approved four year employment agreements with the Village Administrator, Office Manager, Chief of Police and Public Works Superintendent. These agreements do not guarantee any salary or benefit increases but provides some severance for termination without cause.
- ✓ Approved an ordinance allowing the use of Village streets by non-highway vehicles if they are properly registered with the Police Department.
- ✓ Extended the economic incentive ordinance for the Downtown Historic District until May 1, 2019.
- ✓ Approved a special use permit for two accessory structures (detached garage and garden shed) for 607 Penfield.

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.




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VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER

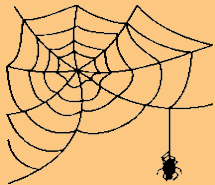
Brush pick-up will be conducted every Monday through November, and begin again in April, 2018. This summer the Village returned to weekly brush pick-up. Brush will not be picked up during the winter months unless there is a storm and then the crews will go out on an as-needed basis. Brush pick-up is 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 Tuesday, 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



DOG TAGS GO ON SALE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

Dog tags go on sale at the Village Hall on Friday, December 1st. The price is \$10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2018. 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 the Beecher Veterinary Clinic for picking up, feeding and boarding stray animals and lost pets.





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DESPITE THE WEATHER, BEECHER HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

This was a difficult year for commissioners and volunteers at Firemen's Park this Fourth of July. On three occasions over the five day period, the park had to close due to storms in the area. This not only reduced attendance but dampened spirits. "Are we going to break even? Will we be able to pay our bills?" was a common theme. However, the community still came out to support the annual festival, and it turned out to be the third-highest grossing year since the Commission took over the event from the fire department in 2001.

One of the main factors is the generosity of the festival's sponsors, providing \$32,470 in operating capital even before the festival opened. This allowed for the payment of the car given away at the raffle and deposits made for entertainment. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE SPONSORS!

These numbers are still not final, but the festival grossed \$168,924 and total expenses were \$150,064 for a total net profit of \$18,860. Our operating expenses continue to increase but the Commission is trying to keep prices the same each year to keep the festival family-oriented, which is the main mission of the Commission. The net profit goes to maintaining and improving Firemen's Park, which is the Commission's secondary mission.

The net revenue for the festival breaks down as follows: carnival, \$16,191; car raffle, \$13,270; beer stand, \$27,594; big six wheel, \$3,386; pull tabs and jar games, \$622; bingo, \$3,305; food stand, \$3,155. Some of the larger expenses include fireworks, \$29,090; parade, \$6,019; car purchase, \$23,976; entertainment, \$22,150; publicity, \$10,638; and security, \$5,700.

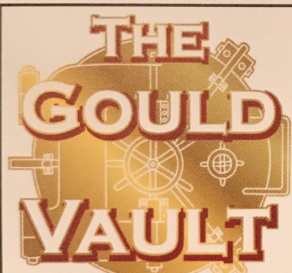
Once again, thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors who make this festival a success!



WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE Sunday, November 5th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 30200 Town Center Road

The Washington Township Board has scheduled an "Open House" for Sunday, November 5th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. All residents are invited to meet their elected Township officials and take a tour of the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher. There will be historic records from the Township on display and refreshments will be served.

The Township Center is also home to the Washington Township Road District and the west end of the building is owned by the Beecher School District and serves as a repair and maintenance shop for school district buses and vans. There is also a 60' vehicle wash bay used by other taxing bodies. The grounds surrounding the facility are used for school district bus parking, a shared card-controlled fuel system, and a 1200-ton salt storage dome shared by the Village of Beecher and Township.



- BINGO Tuesdays @6pm
- KARAOKE Wednesdays @8pm
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Washington Township Open House • Sunday, November 5th from 2-4 p.m.

Blood Sugar Screening • Saturday, November 11th from 8-11 a.m.
(Sponsored by Beecher Fire District, Beecher Lions Club & CVS)

Beecher Youth Commission Nerf Obstacle Course • November (TBD) from 2-5 p.m.

Breakfast with Santa • Sunday, December 3rd beginning at 8 a.m.

Washington Township Community Building Christmas Bazaar -
• **Saturday, December 9th from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Beecher Youth Commission Bowling • January 15th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Beecher Youth Commission Daddy-Daughter Dance • February 17th

Beecher Youth Commission Mother-Son Dance • April 14th

