

The Beecher Bulletin

"Your Village Newsletter"



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Village of Beecher

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VILLAGE REFERENDUM TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 4TH *Should Beecher Issue \$1,100,000 in General Obligation Bonds for a New Public Works Facility?*

Prior to 1998, the Village's public works department was located at 602 Gould Street in a 3,000 square foot garage. Today, public works occupies the old Washington Township Highway Garage at 380 Ahrens Drive, a 5,000 square foot building adjacent to the sewer plant, after the highway department moved to its new facility at Indiana Avenue and Town Center Road. In the last 10 years, the Village has doubled in size and increased the size of its public works crew and amount of equipment to continue the service levels that residents expect. However, the garage cannot be expanded on the present site.

For the past two years, the Village Board has made plans to expand its facilities but with the guideline that an expansion would not increase the cost to existing residents. A 3.5 acre parcel of land was purchased for \$50,000 at Indiana Avenue and Town Center Road in front of the Township's building for this purpose. It was then decided that a new public works building could be built using the re-authorization of General Obligation Bonds which mature in 2009. If the voters approve a



This is an example of the cramped quarters at the public works garage at 380 Ahrens Drive. The garage is located next to the sewer plant.

Continued on Page 3

VILLAGE TO AGAIN OFFER FREE YARD WASTE BAGS TO CERTAIN HOUSEHOLDS EAST OF DIXIE HIGHWAY

*Distribution will be at the Bingo Stand in Firemen's Park (673 Penfield Street)
Saturday, October 11th & Saturday, October 18th from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon*

On Saturday, October 11th and October 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Beecher Village Board members will be distributing free yard waste bags to each residential refuse customer living outside of the current leaf collection zone. This is the area east of Dixie Highway with the exception of Miller, Orchard and Church Road. This distribution will occur under the Bingo Stand at Firemen's Park. These will be the only dates and times that yard waste bags will be distributed, so please mark your calendars. These bags can be used for the collection of leaves, grass and other yard waste at any time during the coming year. Bags can be placed on the curb each Monday morning for collection until November 24, 2008 or again beginning April 6, 2009.



Continued on Page 2

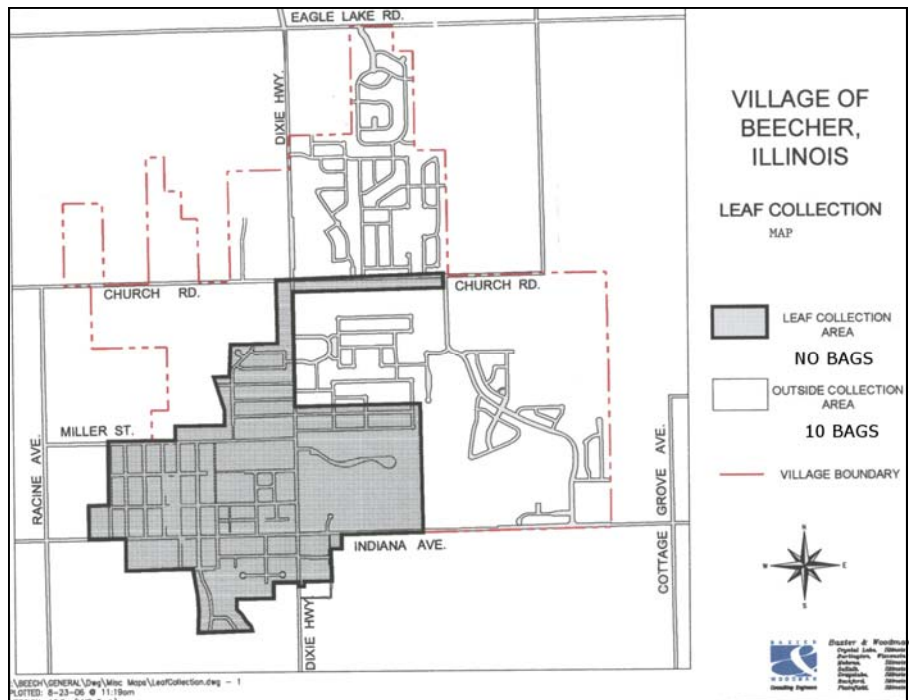
Yard waste bags continued from page 1

This year, those living outside the leaf collection zone established by the Village (see map) will receive 10 free yard waste bags. Those living within the leaf collection zone will not receive free bags this year since they are provided curbside leaf collection by the public works department.

When you arrive to pick-up your bags, you will be asked to provide the stub from your most recent water bill or another form of identification so that your refuse account can be verified and marked that you have received your bags. The Village will be paying Star/Homewood Disposal Service for all bags distributed by 12 noon on Saturday, October 18th so there will not be any distribution of bags after this date.

Additional yard waste bags can be purchased at Walt's Food Centers, the Heritage F/S Grain Elevator, and at the Village Hall.

LEAF COLLECTION MAP



This is Prairie Park, located at Somerset and Ashford Drive in the new Prairie Park Subdivision, located north of Church Road and East of Dixie Highway. The park opened on October 1st and many neighborhood children have already tried out the new equipment.



DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR 2009 DOG TAG! **DOG TAGS GO ON SALE MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST**



Dog tags go on sale at the Village Hall on Monday, December 1st. The price is \$10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2009. 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.

re-authorization using the same debt service tax rates on the current bond issue which is about to retire, there would be no cost increase to current residents. A financial consultant was hired, and it was determined that the Village could borrow \$1.1 million for 20 years at the current tax rate in effect today. This would be sufficient for the construction of the public works building.

The proposed building would be 13,000 square feet with the capability of being expanded in the future. It would also meet all of the current federal, state and local building codes in effect today which our present building does not meet. It will provide the public works department some storage, office and lunchroom space that they do not have today. It will allow

the Village to store more materials such as stone, cold patch, black dirt and sand which they need to use on a regular basis. Also, all of the equipment can be stored under roof in a heated facility which increases the life span of the equipment and keeps it ready for use at all times.

The existing garage will not be torn down, but will be converted to a sludge drying facility when the sewer treatment plant is expanded. This facility is being required by the IEPA to remove phosphorus from the waste when the plant is expanded in the near future. The re-use of this building will result in a cost savings of over \$500,000 when the plant is upgraded. Until that time, the building will be used for cold storage.



This is the washroom at the current public works garage which also doubles as a kitchen.



Space at the Public Works garage is extremely limited. Eight employees share the space which is located next to the sewer plant.



This is the proposed future site of the new public works facility located on the north side of Indiana Avenue next to Washington Township Center. Located in the background is the salt storage dome and the fuel depot shared by all Beecher taxing bodies.

In short, the Village can provide a larger facility for the public works department, use the existing building as part of the sewer treatment process in the future, and accomplish all this without raising Village residents' taxes. Whether or not you agree with this proposal, you are encouraged to vote on this referendum which will occur during the general election on November 4th.

BEECHER MEMORIAL TREE FUND

Fall is a nice time of year to consider a memorial tree to remember a special person, date or occasion. A tree can be planted in any of our parks for a \$300.00 donation. This occasion will then be engraved on a plaque in the Village Hall and the names will be read each year at our Arbor Day Tree Planting ceremony. We have 10 donors on our memorial tree plaque at this time. Please contact the Village Hall at 946-2261 if you would like a memorial tree.





VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2008:

- ◆ Adopted a resolution approving a new spending policy for all Village expenditures. The Village Administrator must approve all expenditures between \$1,000 and \$5,000, and the Board of Trustees by motion must approve all expenditures over \$5,000.
- ◆ Learned that the January, 2008 special census counted 1,141 new residents since the 2004 special census, making the Village's new population 4,111.
- ◆ Approved an ordinance increasing the liquor license fees.
- ◆ Approved an ordinance establishing a \$1.00 per month charge to be applied to all sewer billing accounts as a mosquito abatement fee, in order to continue this program.
- ◆ Approved the installation of a fence in Lion's Park along the railroad tracks, to be completed by Mr. Fence of Beecher, Illinois in the amount of \$8,000.
- ◆ Approved an exploratory planned development consisting of 38 single-family homes and 40 senior housing units known as Creekside East Subdivision, located south of Church Road and west of Dixie Highway.
- ◆ Approved an ordinance increasing business license fees from \$30 to \$50, effective May 1, 2009.
- ◆ Approved a lease for railroad property along the east side of Lion's Park and Depot Park in the amount of \$1,500 annually with a 3% escalator. The lease runs for 99 years and can be broken at any time by either party or can be renegotiated at a later date.
- ◆ Approved an ordinance authorizing the pre-annexation agreement for 507 acres of land, commonly known as Phase II industrial lands, as proposed by Trinity Industrial Development. This acreage runs between Dixie Highway and the CSX/UP railroad tracks, north from the Village limits to north of Eagle Lake Road.
- ◆ Approved a contract with Ehlers and Associates to act as the Village's financial consultants on the Public Works facility general obligation bond issue.
- ◆ Approved the extension of a building permit to Mike Buchmeier for repairs being made to a building at the southeast corner of Reed and Penfield Streets. This building permit will expire on December 9, 2008.
- ◆ Approved an application to the IEPA to expand the Village's facilities planning area by 160 acres, an area between Eagle Lake Road and Church Road, Cottage Grove Avenue and Nantucket Cove.
- ◆ Approved a resolution of support for the 2016 Olympic games in Chicago.
- ◆ Approved a 3-year electrical contract with Exelon for the Village's sewer plant and wells, which locks in the Village's electric rate through June, 2012.
- ◆ Approved a contract in the amount of \$9,965 to Perm-A-Seal, Inc., for crack sealing several streets in the Village in the fall of 2008.
- ◆ Approved pre-annexation agreements with Trinity Industrial Development for 120 acres of land located south of Church Road and west of Racine Avenue.

Continued on next page

Board meeting highlights continued

- ◆ Approved an ordinance creating a new classification of liquor license for a golf course and amending the liquor code to include disturbances of the peace as liquor license violations.
- ◆ Approved a motion adopting Dallas City, IL as a sister city to the Village of Beecher and creating an ad-hoc commission called the Dallas City Flood Relief Commission for the purposes of raising funds for the Dallas City flood relief effort.
- ◆ Awarded a bid in the amount of \$49,560 to Jim Waterson Construction for the development of the playground at Prairie Park in Prairie Park Subdivision, located north of Church Road and east of Dixie Highway. It was noted that the developer, Castletown Homes, provided the Village with \$58,000 in escrow for the establishment of this park.
- ◆ Approved a motion to approve the financial plan submitted by Ehlers and Associates and to authorize a referendum question for the November 4th election asking residents for permission to sell \$1.1 million in general obligation bonds for the purposes of constructing a Public Works facility and other Public Works projects in the event there are funds remaining.
- ◆ Approved a motion establishing a recycling program in Firemen's Park.
- ◆ Authorized public hearings to be held at the October 13th and October 27th, 2008 Village Board meetings pertaining to the Public Works facility referendum.
- ◆ Approved a contract with Melrose Pyrotechnics in the amount of \$23,500 for the July 4, 2009 fireworks display. Funds raised by the festival and corporate donations will pay the expense of the display. Tax dollars will not be used.
- ◆ Authorized Village participation in Car Cruise Nights to be held at Buddy's on the first and third Wednesdays of each month during the summer months.
- ◆ Tabled indefinitely a proposal to consider an amusement tax of up to 3% on recreational activities in the Village, such as golf, bowling, and video rentals. It was the consensus of the Board that due to the economic conditions that exist today, a new tax would not be in the best interest of local businesses.
- ◆ Approved a resolution supporting an extension of the sunset clause from December 31, 2010 to December 31, 2020 for the property tax recovery fund of Will County. If the Illinois General Assembly extends this state statute for an additional period of ten years, local taxing bodies would be able to continue to receive property tax income from leasehold property owned by the Illinois Department of Transportation in the proposed south suburban airport site.
- ◆ Approved a variance for a fence in the front yard setback at 263 Woodbridge.
- ◆ Approved a motion allowing Landover Corporation to install the final surface on all roads in Prairie Crossings South Unit #3 single-family homes, if the developer agrees to provide a five-year maintenance bond.
- ◆ Authorized the drawing on a letter of credit for the final lift on Hunter's Chase West Subdivision if the final lift is not installed by November 1, 2008.
- ◆ Approved the drafting of a letter to the Village of Crete requesting negotiations on a boundary agreement between Crete and Beecher as requested by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

The Beecher Village Board meets regularly on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center, located at 30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL. These meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are also televised on Comcast Cable, Channel 4, WPAL, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Check the cable channel line-up for the exact times of the broadcasts.





LEAF PICK-UP BEGINS MID OCTOBER

The Village will soon begin the 2008 leaf collection season in areas designated as leaf collection zones (see map on page 2). 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 day before Thanksgiving. When placing leaves along the curb for pickup, it is asked that these simple rules be followed to ensure that your leaves will be picked up:

1. Leaves must be raked in a row as close to the road edge as possible.
2. Do not mix grass, twigs, brush or pet waste with the leaves or it will not be picked up.
3. Leaves must be raked; not mulched (mulched leaves should be placed in yard waste bags).
4. Do not rake leaves into storm ditches.

**Public Works will make one pass per week down each street in the Village.

**Public Works will not do special pick-ups.

**Leaves are only picked up in the designated leaf collection zone (see map, page 2)



HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

Trick or treat hours this year are
4-7 p.m. on Friday, October 31st



The Lions Club Annual Weenie Roast will begin
in the Fire Station parking lot at 6 p.m. on Halloween

In addition to the Weenie Roast, the *Beecher Lions Club* will be hosting a pumpkin smash and hayride in Firemen's Park (673 Penfield Street) on Friday, October 31st from 6-8 p.m.

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



Happy Halloween



WINTER WEATHER IS APPROACHING **Be Aware of Street Parking Regulations**

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.

This regulation gives the public works crews the ability to adequately clear the streets and parking areas of snow and ice. Violators of this ordinance are issued a ticket by the Police Department either before or during snow removal operations. The Village reserves the right to tow parked vehicles at any time which cause a traffic safety hazard as a result of heavy snowfalls.



STAR/HOMEWOOD DISPOSAL REMINDS RESIDENTS OF REFUSE RULES
All Refuse placed on Parkway must be in 20-30 Gallon Covered Containers



Over the years, we all begin to forget the rules of how to place our refuse on the parkways. Then one Monday morning we wake up to find our garbage strewn all over our front yard by a hungry raccoon or blown all over the neighborhood by a gust of wind.

Residential refuse pick-up is conducted in the Village every Monday morning (unless a major holiday falls on Monday then collection is on Tuesday). Homewood Disposal would like to remind us that all refuse is to be placed in plastic bags inside a 20-30 gallon container with a close fitting cover. This allows the refuse hauler to easily lift the container into the truck and keep animals and the wind from making a mess of your garbage. Garbage should not be placed at the curb for pick-up any earlier than the evening before collection day and cans should be removed from the curb and put away by the end of collection day. Also, one bulk item is allowed each week for pick-up such as a washer, stove, etc. If you have more than one bulk item which you want collected, please contact Homewood Disposal directly at 748-8381 to arrange for a special pick-up.

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER



The Village has received complaints about people allowing their dogs to do their "duty" in other people's yards and in public parks. As a pet owner you are responsible for picking up after your pet does his "duty". Be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your dog. Failure to do so could result in a fine. Leave local parks clean for the kids to play and be considerate of your neighbors!

VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER
Make Sure You Follow the Rules so Your Brush gets Picked Up



The Village purchased a new brush chipper last year and began a new weekly collection program of brush in conjunction with regular refuse collection on Mondays. This program will continue as a convenience to residents and to help keep the community looking well-groomed. Since the chipper cannot grind up vines and bush clippings, new rules were made which require residents to place all vines and bush trimmings in yard waste bags. Tree limbs can be placed on the parkway for the brush chipper on Mondays for pick-up, but not entire trees with trunks (exceeding 6" in diameter) or bushes with root balls. If a residence violates these rules, the items will not be picked up and a notice will be placed on the front door of the home.

Monday brush pick-up will continue through November, and begin again in April, 2009. Brush will not be picked up weekly during the Winter months unless there is a storm and then the crews will go out on an as-needed basis.

BEECHER'S 5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE WALK

Sunday, December 7, 2008

2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



The Beecher Beautification Commission will be holding the 5th Annual Holiday House walk on Sunday, December 7th. The house walk will begin at First National Bank of Grant Park, Beecher Branch where you will be able to purchase raffle tickets for a handmade quilt, holiday gift baskets and a 50/50 raffle. Refreshments will also be available. **Tickets are \$10 each** and may be purchased in advance at the Village Hall, First National Bank of Grant Park, First Community Bank & Trust, any Beautification Commission member or that day at First National Bank of Grant Park. The house walk is open to those 12 years of age and older. (First National Bank of Grant Park is located at 951 Dixie Highway.)





Village of Beecher

724 Penfield Street/P.O. Box 1154
Beecher, IL 60401

Village Hall Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday:
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall
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

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VILLAGE HEADS COMMUNITY EFFORT TO HELP ADOPTED SISTER CITY WITH FLOOD RELIEF ***Beecher raises more than \$23,000 for Dallas City, Illinois***

Dallas City, Illinois, population 1,000, is located along the Mississippi River to the southwest of Galesburg. The river is the town's greatest asset but at times can also be the town's greatest nemesis. In mid-June, the river rose to a level close to the great flood of 1993, knocking out the town's barge elevator, river front park, and several homes and businesses. We all heard about Cedar Rapids, Iowa but there were many small, rural towns affected by the flood that the media did not cover and the aid was slower in coming.

Dallas City was chosen not because it was a town known to Beecher officials, but because Beecher had no association at all with Dallas City. Was our community up to the challenge to help a total stranger in need? From the time the campaign started on July 1st to the time the first check was delivered on August 16th, more than \$23,000 was raised by local residents, businesses, and the local governments. This check was presented to Mayor Ruth Higgins in Dallas City on August 16th at a ceremony attended by many Dallas City officials and residents. This donation will be used by the City of Dallas City to help remove contaminated sandbags from city streets and homes which are still in place today, as witnessed by a tour of the area. Fund-raising continued through the month of September through door offerings at Beecher's churches and fundraisers in the schools.

