



The Beecher Bulletin

“Your Village Newsletter”



Inside this issue:

Board Meeting Highlights	4,5
Brush Collection	7
Church Road Improvements	3
Dog Tags on Sale	7
Halloween	6
Beautification Commission	8
Leaf Collection Map	2
Leaf Pick-Up	6
Letter from EPA	3
New Well Online	3
Protect the Water	7
Refuse Rules	7
Traffic Light	2
Winter Weather Parking	6

Village of Beecher

OFFICIALS

Paul Lohmann
President

Trustees:

Scott Wehling
Ronald Kuhlman
Gayle Ahrendt
Joe Gardner
Greg Szymanski
Brian Cleary

Janett Conner
Clerk

Nelson Collins
Treasurer

Robert O. Barber
Administrator

Jeffrey Weissgerber
Chief of Police

Harold “Bud” Cowger
Supt. of Public Works

Julie Riechers
Code Enforcement Off.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING CONSTRUCTION ON TIME AND ON BUDGET

New facility expected to be completed by November 15th

The construction of the new Beecher Public Works facility, located at 30300 Town Center Road, or at the corner of Indiana Avenue and Cardinal Creek Boulevard, is progressing on schedule. The walls and roof were installed in the last week, and the next step is to pour the cement floor inside the building and add the heating plant and fire protection systems. The Public Works Department has decided to complete its relocation from 380 Ahrens Drive (the sewer plant) to the new building over the course of the Winter, so tool racks and materials storage can be thoughtfully laid out. In the Spring of 2010 when the move is complete, an open house is planned



Workers put up insulation on one of the walls

Continued on Page 2 which will show the community exactly how the new building

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

Distribution will be at the Jr High School at Church Road & Cardinal Creek Blvd
Saturday, October 10th & Saturday, October 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

On Saturday, October 10th and October 17th 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 year the distribution will occur at the Junior High School at 101 East Church Road. 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.



Public Works Building continued from Page 1

As of this printing, the base bid for the building is still at the budgeted amount of \$846,751 which includes all change orders, and the contents of the building is proposed to cost \$51,100. \$64,500 in bond proceeds were also used to pay for the engineering design and application for grant and loan funds from the IEPA for the replacement of watermain on Penfield from Woodward to Dixie, Maxwell from Penfield to Indiana and on Indiana from Dunbar to Oak Park. An additional \$40,625 is set aside for the payment of capitalized interest. Therefore, the total amount of committed funds is \$1,002,976 of the \$1,078,803 received in bond proceeds. This provides for a contingency of \$75,827 in the event complications arise during project completion.

ARE WE EVER GOING TO SEE A TRAFFIC LIGHT AT DIXIE AND CHESTNUT?

IDOT finally sets a bid letting date for January, 2010



Since 2002, the Village has been pushing for a traffic signal at IL Route #1 (Dixie Highway) and Chestnut Lane. In 2006, the Village applied for and received 80% federal funding for the project with the Village providing a 20% local match. However, Dixie Highway is a State road and the Village needed permission from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to put up the signal. The intersection was completely re-designed and the light schematics were provided to IDOT in May of 2006 and the paper pushing game was on. Year after year and month after month of delays and wrangling over issues finally resulted in IDOT's approval on March 26, 2009.

But wait! New AT+T and Comcast utility lines were discovered in the parkway where the cement footings for the light poles were to be installed. These lines were installed since the lights were designed in 2006 and now the entire intersection had to be re-designed. More costs and more delays. Finally, on September 2, 2009, the Village was advised by IDOT of the January, 2010 bid letting date.

The project is now expected to begin in the Spring of 2010. \$73,558 in Village funds will be used as a match for the \$367,792 project. It is hoped that the new traffic signal will be operational by July 1, 2010. Notice that the word "hoped" is used here.

Yard waste bags continued from page 1

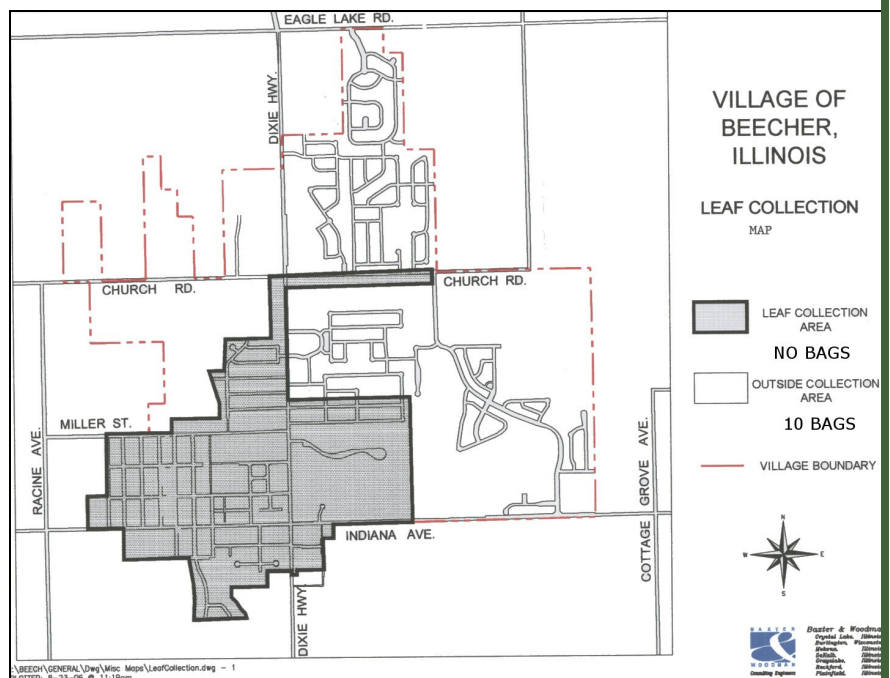
Star/A&J Disposal bags can be placed at the curb each Monday morning for collection until November 30, 2009 or again beginning April 5, 2010.

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 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/A&J Disposal Service for all bags distributed by 12 noon on Saturday, October 17th 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



VILLAGE PUTS NEW WELL ONLINE

Well is capable of producing 1,500 gallons per minute



Well#5, located at the corner of Sawgrass and Rolling Pass in the Hunter's Chase East Subdivision, was certified for full operational use by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency last Fall. This well was authorized for construction by the Village Board in 2006 using \$750,000 in tap in fees collected from new developments. Not only does this new well maintain system pressure at the far north and east ends of the Village, but it is also capable of supplying water to the entire Village and filling the water tower on Gould Street in the event the booster station located on Church Road is offline. The Village now has three operational wells including a 1,000 gpm well located by the Beecher Fellowship Baptist Church on Church Road and a 500 gpm well located beneath the water tower on Gould Street. The first two Village wells located inside the Village Hall were abandoned and sealed in 1994 due to their limited production.

The Village receives its water from a shallow underground aquifer starting at a depth of about 60 feet. Each well's drilled depth is approximately 550 feet and the pump is set at 110 feet. Drawdown on the aquifer is minimal at full pumping capacity; only about two feet. This drawdown level rarely varies which is an indication that the Village has an ample supply of good quality water. The hardness of the water is 20 to 30 grains per gallon north of Penfield and



BEECHER RECEIVES "DEAR JOHN" LETTER FROM THE I.E.P.A.

Over 500 applications received totaling \$4.7 billion in requests when only \$575 million available

Last Spring all municipalities across Illinois and across the nation were urged to get water and sewer projects "shovel ready" because federal money was on the way to stimulate the economy. The Village Board decided to use \$64,500 in General Obligation Bond proceeds for engineering design and a full application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for the replacement of watermain on Penfield from Woodward to Dixie, on Maxwell from Penfield to Indiana, and on Indiana from Dunbar to Oak Park. Most of these mains were installed in 1910 and are subject to frequent rupture causing loss of service to many residents and costly repairs.

The IEPA's program was very attractive: the project would be fully funded at 100% and the Village would pay back 75% of the approved project cost at no interest over a period of twenty years. Therefore, this \$1 million watermain replacement project would only cost the Village \$37,000 per year for 20 years and there was sufficient cash flow in the Village's Debt Service Fund to pay off the loan.

However, on July 23, 2009 the Village received a letter from the IEPA stating that its project would not be funded. The IEPA had received over 500 applications totaling \$4.7 billion in requests and there was only \$575 million available for the program. Therefore, the IEPA took the first 250 applications it received and tossed the other 250 or so applications. Beecher's application was discarded. The Village Board has relayed its concerns about the selection process to our local legislators.

At some point in time these mains will have to be replaced. There is discussion on phasing the replacement program in over an extended period of time or seeking financing alternatives but until the economy improves, this project may have to be delayed.

CHURCH ROAD IMPROVEMENTS SCHEDULED FOR SUMMER OF 2010

The Village has received \$100,000 in federal American Recovery and Reconstruction Act (ARRA) funds to resurface Church Road from Dixie Highway to the railroad tracks. The Village has also earmarked an additional \$100,000 of its own funds for the reconstruction of Church Road from Cardinal Creek Boulevard to South Park Avenue. These projects were slated to begin this Fall but the federal money is slower in coming than expected and the new Beecher Community Church is under construction on Church Road east of the Beecher Junior High School resulting in heavy construction traffic. For these reasons, both projects will be let for bids this Spring with completion expected prior to August 15, 2010.





VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2009:

Learned that the Village received an A+ rating from Standard and Poors on the issuance of \$1.1 million in General Obligation bonds.

Approved a resolution asking the State of Illinois to include the resurfacing of Illinois Route 1 (Dixie Highway) from Goodenow Road to the Kankakee/Will County line, including those portions through the Village, as a priority project for the 2009 capital bill.

Approved an application for the replacement of watermain on Penfield Street from Dixie Highway to Woodward Street, Maxwell Street from Penfield Street to Indiana Avenue, and on Indiana Avenue from Dunbar Street to Oak Park Avenue. This application will be sent to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency requesting a \$985,000 loan at 0% interest for twenty years to pay for the project. Twenty-five percent of the project's principal will also be forgiven through the ARRA Act.

Approved a temporary use permit for an outdoor market, sponsored by the Beecher Chamber of Commerce, to be held in the Striker's Bowling Alley parking lot, on Wednesday evenings from 4-8 p.m. during the summer months.

Approved an application to obtain a low income summer worker for the Public Works Department through the Will County Workforce Program.

Approved a temporary special use permit for Scruggs Barbecue to be located in front of Tubby's Wine and Spirits on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays during the summer months.

Approved a resolution accepting a gift in the amount of \$50,000 for capital improvements from the estate of Garneta Ehlers. The Village President then appointed a committee to come up with recommendations for the use of the funds.

Adopted a resolution authorizing specific security measures for the protection of resident information on Village databases and an identity theft policy for the Village, as required by Federal law. This law is commonly known as the Red Flag Law. These new measures being taken provide greater security of information held by the Village on behalf of residents.

Approved two resurfacing projects for the 2010 construction season. One project being paid by local funds includes the paving of Church Road, from the Junior High east entrance to South Park Avenue at a cost of \$100,000. The second project is the resurfacing of Church Road from Dixie Highway west to a point 800 feet east of Racine at an estimated cost of \$109,000. This funding would be provided by the federal government through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Approved a resolution adopting a community-wide strategic plan and community vision for the year 2030. As of this printing, this resolution was also approved by the Beecher School District, the Beecher Library District, Beecher Fire Protection District and Washington Township.

Approved the concept of selling advertising in the Village newsletter beginning in Spring 2010. Advertising would also be sold for the Washington Township newsletter with the Village and Township splitting the proceeds. These proceeds would then be used to fund a newsletter printing and mailing, reducing the cost to taxpayers.

Referred to the Beecher Planning and Zoning Commission a request from the Beecher Chamber of Commerce to review the sign regulations contained in the Beecher Zoning Ordinance.

Approved an ordinance adopting an updated disaster plan for the Village of Beecher. This plan was last updated in 2004.

Continued on next page

Board meeting highlights continued

Approved 11 construction contracts, totaling \$859,000 for the construction of a new Public Works facility located at 30300 Town Center Road. A motion was also approved permitting the Public Works Department to purchase furnishings for this new facility at a cost not to exceed \$51,100.

Approved a one-year contract with South Suburban Sweeps in the amount of \$250 per month for once per week cleaning services in the Village Hall and Police Station.

Approved a motion permitting Beecher Recreation exclusive use of ballfields at prescribed times so that Little League competition could occur.

Approved the purchase of a squad car in the amount not to exceed \$23,900.

Turned down a request to construct an apartment on the first floor of a commercial building at 759 Penfield Street.

Turned down a request from the Laborer's District Council to adopt a responsible bidder ordinance for the Village which would require all contractors doing work with the Village to provide apprenticeship training programs.

Authorized the Village President and Clerk to sign employment agreements with the Village Administrator, Office Manager, Chief of Police, Superintendent of Public Works and Economic Development Coordinator.

Approved a professional services agreement with Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm in the amount of \$14,900 to perform an audit of the Village's books.

Approved an ordinance stating that liquor license holders would lose their license if they do not renew their annual license within 30 days of expiration.

Approved an extension of a building permit for the Buchmeier building located at 752 Penfield until January 1, 2010.

Approved an ordinance establishing rules for the collection of refuse, which states that refuse containers cannot be placed on the parkway prior to 5 p.m. on the day before pickup and containers must be removed from the parkway within 24 hours of the time of pickup.

Approved a crack sealing program in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 for the sealing of cracks on residential streets in Hunter's Chase and Prairie Crossings Subdivisions, in addition to Dutch American Way and Church Road from Dixie to Cardinal Creek Boulevard.

Authorized a draw on a letter of credit in the amount of \$516,369.10 from the Royal Bank of Canada for the completion of public improvements in the Nantucket Cove Subdivision owned by Montalbano Homes.

Approved a draw on a letter of credit in the amount of \$856,000 from Cole Taylor Bank for the completion of public improvements in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision, owned by MGM Construction.

Approved a draw on a letter of credit in the amount of \$15,000 from Cole Taylor Bank for The Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision, owned by MGM Construction, pertaining to unfinished front and rear yards on Sunset Boulevard. These funds have been received by the Village and have been placed in escrow. The public improvements will be completed prior to October 30, 2010.

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 2009 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)**



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. It is also illegal to deposit snow onto public streets. When clearing your driveway, direct the snow into the yard and not the street. This allows Public Works to keep the streets clear for vehicular traffic for



VILLAGE NOW ACCEPTS CREDIT CARDS



The Village now accepts Mastercard, Discover and American Express payments in person for water bills, building permits, police fines, dog tags, etc. The Village also accepts these same credit cards online for payment of water bills and police fines. To make a payment online, go to the Village's website at www.villageofbeecher.org and click on "e-pay" on the right side of the page. A convenience fee applies to all credit card transactions. We regret we are not able to take Visa cards at this time.

HALLOWEEN happenings



Happy  Halloween

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

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

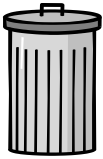


In addition to the Weenie Roast, the *Beecher Lions Club* will be hosting a pumpkin



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, recycling or yard waste bags should not be placed at the curb for pick-up any earlier than 5 p.m. 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.

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, 2010. 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.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT THE WATER IN YOUR STORM DRAIN SYSTEM: AUTOMOTIVE



Keep your autos in good repair and watch for possible leaks. Take leftover or used fluids to your household hazardous waste collection center. Clean up leaks and spills with an absorbent material such as kitty litter and check with your disposal carrier or a household hazardous waste collection center for disposal recommendations.

TRASH

Place trash and litter that cannot be recycled or reused in trash cans, and recycle the products that you can. Whenever possible, turn trash into useful products and buy recycled products. Remember: Reduce - Reuse - Recycle.

It's Up To You. Together, you and your neighbors can make a difference to keep gutters, storm drains and waterways clean.

(Source: Orange County, California)

DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR 2010 DOG TAG! DOG TAGS GO ON SALE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST



Dog tags go on sale at the Village Hall on Tuesday, December 1st. The price is \$10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2010. The Village Hall will need to know the dog's name, breed, color and date of last rabies vaccination. 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.



Village of Beecher

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT#57
BEECHER, IL

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 Phone 946-2261

Emergency Police & Fire
9-1-1

Police Non Emergency:
946-2341

Fire Non Emergency:
946-6585

**RESIDENT
BEECHER, IL 60401**

Web Site: www.villageofbeecher.org
E-Mail: clerk@villageofbeecher.org



BEECHER BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION NEEDS YOUR HELP

Volunteering your time or donating is greatly encouraged to keep our community beautiful

Did you realize that all of the flowers in Depot Park, in front of the Community Hall, on the Miller and Penfield bridge rails, around the Welcome to Beecher signs, and around the trees on Gould and Reed Streets were planted by volunteers? Did you know that the new gazebo in Depot Park on Reed Street was constructed entirely with donated funds? Can you imagine how many volunteer hours are spent weeding and cultivating all of these flower beds? This is the fine work of the Beecher Beautification Commission, and they would like some additional help. Are you interested in helping out next year? Would you like to grow a "green thumb"? Consider volunteering to assist this great group of Beecher residents who care about the appearance of their community. Call the Village Hall at 946-2261 and put your name on our list for next year!



BEECHER'S 6TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE WALK

Sunday, December 6, 2009

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



The Beecher Beautification Commission will be holding the 6th Annual Holiday House walk on Sunday, December 6th. 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 special raffle, 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.)

