



The Beecher Bulletin

"Your Village Newsletter"



Inside this issue:

Board Meeting Highlights	4,5
Beecher Youth Commission	2
Brush Collection	7
Conservation Landscaping	6
Dog Tags on Sale	6
E-Pay & Auto Draft	2
Halloween	7
Holiday House Walk	8
Leaf Collection	1
Memorial Tree Fund	2
Upcoming Events	8
Veterans Memorial	3
Village Survey	1
Winter Weather Parking	7

VILLAGE BOARD CONDUCTS SURVEY OF RESIDENTS

Your Survey Is Enclosed or You May Complete One On-Line!

There are several major issues facing the Village in the coming years, and the Village Board would like to hear from you on these important matters! The first part of the survey (which is enclosed in this newsletter) pertains to your satisfaction with some of the services the Village offers. The second part of the survey asks for your opinion on some major issues which the Village will face in the future, such as the proposed Illiana Expressway, the South Suburban Airport, and a proposal to establish quiet zones for train whistles through town. Your survey responses will be anonymous; in other words, no one will know who completed the surveys. We hope to have at least 300 surveys returned to produce a good representative sample of the Village residents' attitudes towards issues we will all soon face. Village Board members will use the results of this survey to help them make decisions and formulate policy positions. You may fill out the enclosed survey and either mail it to the Village Hall or return it in person at a drop box located in the Village Hall lobby by Friday, November 4th. You may also complete your survey on-line by going to the Village's website, www.villageofbeecher.org, and follow the survey link on the home page. The electronic survey will ask for the street you live on just to verify that you are a Village resident. This information is used only to verify that surveys were completed by a Village resident and for no other purpose. Tell us what you think! Everyone deserves to be heard! Results of the survey will be provided in the Spring newsletter.

Village of Beecher

OFFICIALS

Paul Lohmann
President

Trustees:
Scott Wehling
Ronald Kuhlman
Gayle Ahrendt
Greg Szymanski
Brian Cleary
Jonathan Kypuros

Janett Conner
Clerk

Nelson Collins
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Robert O. Barber
Administrator

Jeffrey Weissgerber
Chief of Police

Harold "Bud" Cowger
Supt. of Public Works

Julie Riechers
Code Enforcement Off.

CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION FOR ENTIRE VILLAGE

Begins October 10th



Beecher Public Works will begin leaf collection on Monday, October 10th. Last year, as a cost cutting measure, the Beecher Village Board decided to end the free yard waste bag distribution program. In lieu of free yard waste bags, the entire Village will now be provided with curbside leaf collection. 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:

- ✓ Leaves should be placed 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.
- ✓ Do not mix grass, twigs, brush or pet waste with the leaves or it will not be picked up.
- ✓ Leaves must be raked; not mulched (mulched leaves should be placed in yard waste bags which will be collected by Star Disposal).
- ✓ Do not rake leaves onto the street or into storm ditches. (It doesn't take many leaves to plug the storm drains and cause flooding.)
- ✓ The leaf machine will make at least one pass per week down each street in the Village.
- ✓ There are no special pick-ups.



NEWLY FORMED BEECHER YOUTH COMMISSION

“Offering a positive and fun experience for Beecher’s youth”

The Beecher Village Board passed an ordinance on July 11th 2011, approving the creation of a youth commission. The Beecher Youth Commission is chaired by Trustee Jonathan Kypuros and consists of appointed members that include: Vickie Cackowski, Elizabeth Delgado, J.R. Delgado, Tiffany Messana, Trish Moran, Kyle Mose, George Obradovich and Police Juvenile Officer Andy Leroy; Youth Representatives: Adam Howard, Stephanie Salmen and Joe Volek.

The Beecher Youth Commission will organize, plan and develop programs that benefit the youth under the age of 16 in Beecher. The Commission will facilitate outings and events that are both individually and family focused. A primary goal is to offer a positive and fun experience for Beecher’s youth.

The Commission will be partially funded by the Village of Beecher but will also engage in fundraising and donation solicitation. Some planned events include: Camp-out Under the Stars, Trick-or-Trunk, Turkey Trot, Fall Festival, Movie in the Park, Mother-son and Father-daughter dances, etc. The Youth Commission hopes to build upon the foundation of the programs and activities previously offered by the Beecher Police Department.



Back Row L-R: Elizabeth Delgado, Tiffany Messana, Trish Moran, Jonathan Kypuros, Kyle Mose, Vickie Cackowski, J.R. Delgado
Front Row L-R: Adam Howard, Stephanie Salmen, Joe Volek
Not Pictured: George Obradovich & Police Juvenile Officer Andy Leroy



DON'T PAY LATE FEES! — The Village offers “Autodraft” to pay your water bill. The water bill amount will be deducted from your bank account on the due date each billing period. Download an Autodraft form from our website or contact the Village Hall for a form (no convenience fees apply for Autodraft);

OR

Pay your water bill online using “EPAY”. Go to www.villageofbeecher.org and click on EPAY located on the right side of the page (convenience fee applies with EPAY).

BEECHER MEMORIAL TREE FUND

Fall is a good time of year to consider planting a memorial tree to remember a special person, date or occasion. A tree can be planted in any of our parks for a donation and the person’s name or occasion will be engraved on a plaque in the Village Hall. The names will be read each year at our Arbor Day Tree Planting ceremony. It is a living tribute that stays green for many years to come. We have 13 donors on our memorial tree plaque at this time. Please contact the Village Hall at 946-2261 if you would like a memorial tree.





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Veteran's Memorial Committee Members pictured left-right; Scott Wehling, Mike Stanula, Jeanette O'Grady, Nelson Collins, Roy Segert, Joe Cook, Paul Lohmann, Gayle Ahrendt and Robert Barber (not pictured - Lawrence Sanders).



Local military veterans

NEW BEECHER VETERAN'S MEMORIAL DEDICATED

Hundreds Turn Out for Ceremony Held on 9-11

It was a proud yet somber moment when the flags of the five branches of the military service and the flag of our great nation were lifted over the new veteran's memorial located at Reed and Hodges Streets in downtown Beecher on September 11, 2011. This project began in 2010 when the Ehlers Committee voted to commit a \$50,000 gift from the estate of Garneta Ehlers toward the construction of a new veteran's memorial. The Committee re-named itself the Beecher Veteran's Memorial Committee and retained the services of Michael Stanula, Architect, to propose a design which would be unlike any other memorial. This design, using the five-pointed military star made of reflective materials, is unique in many ways. It permits the observer to see a reflection of the sky, the flags, and his or her ownself inside the memorial as either a benefactor of those that served in the military or a reflection of one's own service to our country as a veteran. Each point of the star represents one of the five branches of the military.



Beecher Firefighter Bob Price saluting the 9-11 flag



L-R: Jeanette O'Grady & Garneta Ehlers great niece & niece Joyce Karrfalt & Lynne Boone

BEECHER VETERINARY CLINIC

DANIEL E. MCKAY, D.V.M.

700 Dixie Highway, P.O. Box 1171

Beecher, Illinois 60401

Telephone: (708) 946-3131



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VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2011:

- Adopted an ordinance regulating the use of Social Security Numbers by Village employees and public officials.
- Established a capital equipment replacement fund and authorizing the transfer of \$100,000 from general, \$50,000 from water and sewer operations and maintenance, and \$30,000 from the refuse fund into the new account for the purposes of replacing Public Works equipment.
- Authorized the installation of “Dangerous Intersection” signs on Cardinal Creek Boulevard and Deer Crossing.
- Authorized the purchase of a refurbished 2005 Ford F550 articulating bucket truck with 60,000 miles and two-year warranty, in the amount of \$55,000 from I-80 Equipment of Colona, IL. The old 1990 bucket truck owned by the Village was authorized for sale as surplus property in the amount of \$2,000.
- Authorized the purchase of an F250 3/4-ton 4 x 4 pickup truck with 8' snowplow from Curry Motors of Frankfort, IL, at the South Suburban Cooperative bid purchase price of \$26,252. This replaces the 1989 Chevy pick-up which was sold for scrap.
- Learned that the Village grew from 4,111 in 2007 to 4,359 in 2010 as a result of the new census. This is an increase of 248 residents in the last four years.
- Heard a presentation from Jim Testin of Hamilton Engineering on the process for applying for a quiet zone through the Village on the Union Pacific railroad tracks. Costs were estimated at \$200,000+ per crossing in improvements and engineering costs, and an initial study is estimated to cost \$17,000. This matter was tabled until input could be received from the community.
- Approved a resolution of binding participation in the Illinois Public Benefit Council for a period of three years. This council consists of over seventy communities having created a self-insured fund for providing health insurance to local government employees.
- Amended an ordinance pertaining to the licensing of dogs, which now allows for three dogs per household.
- Approved the Village President’s Declaration of Emergency for the replacement of a watermain in the 600 block of Oak Park and authorized \$20,000 from the watermain replacement account to replace said main as soon as possible.
- Approved a letter of support for a proposed 60-unit senior citizen affordable housing complex to be located at the southwest corner of Church Road and Dixie Highway. It was later learned that this proposal did not receive approval from the state in the first round, but that re-application would be made for future rounds.
- Approved a \$1,000 donation to the Will County Center for Economic Development, to assist in attracting commercial and industrial development to Will County.

Continued on next page



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Board meeting highlights continued

- Approved a ten-year agreement with Prairie Pointe Commons Corporation for the enforcement of all local ordinances and traffic laws on private property at the Prairie Pointe Shopping Center.
- To comply with state law the Village Board adopted a resolution which formally requires public comment procedures at Village Board and Committee meetings.
- Passed a resolution opposing any reduction of state-collected revenues due to the Village of Beecher that could be imposed by the Illinois General Assembly.
- Awarded a bid to Perm-A-Seal in the amount of \$7,821 for the paint striping of all Village streets.
- Authorized the repair of the ballfield lights in Firemen's Park to Karstensen Electric in the amount of \$2,500.
- Approved a two-year lease agreement with Norman Lange Trucking and Excavating for the storage of a tractor during the winter months in the old garage in exchange for fine grading a bike path area between the Hunter's Chase and Hunter's Chase East Subdivisions.
- Recognized former Trustee Joe Gardner for his years of service as Village Trustee.
- Witnessed the swearing in of three newly-elected Trustees: Jonathan Kypuros, Brian Cleary and Greg Szymanski.
- Approved a proposal for Marcy Meyer to redesign and maintain the economic development portion of the Village's website at a rate of \$18.50 per hour, not to exceed \$3,700 per year.
- Presented a plaque to retiring Superintendent of Schools George Obradovich in recognition of his service to the community and the Beecher School District.
- Heard a proposal from Kim Coleman for the location in Beecher of a historical museum for juggling.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2005 International 4300 dump truck from Imel Medium Duty Trucks in Bluffton, IN, in the amount of \$55,599. This truck replaces a 1990 GMC dump truck which will now be used at the sewer plant.
- Authorized the Public Buildings and Properties Committee to coordinate the maintenance and repair of the parking lot between the Fire Station and the Community Hall.
- Passed an ordinance establishing the Beecher Youth Commission and appointed Trustee Jonathan Kypuros as Chairman. Eight additional volunteers were appointed as Commissioners.
- Approved a proposal in the amount of \$2,618 from the Washington Township Road District to tar and chip Miller Street from Racine to Oak Park.



The Beecher Village Board meets regularly on the second Monday 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. Check the cable channel line-up for the exact times of the broadcasts.



CONSERVATION LANDSCAPING FOR WATER QUALITY—COMPOSTING



Conservation Landscaping promotes landscape management techniques and philosophies that work with nature to reduce pollution and encourage wildlife habitat. It encourages yard care practices that include using less fertilizers and pesticides, reducing lawn areas, and utilizing native plants. The results are less overall maintenance and less water use.

On-Site Organic Recycling

Most gardeners know the value of recycling their grass clippings, plant prunings and leaves by composting, but many people still buy commercial fertilizers because they don't have enough compost. Other people give their leaves away in the fall by taking advantage of municipal leaf pick-ups or paying landscaping companies to clean off their lawns because they think they have no room for a leaf compost pile. Then they pay for bags of bark mulch to spread under shrubs and trees and in garden beds. Instead, they could chop the leaves with a mulching mower and rake them into the landscaping beds to use as mulch. Natural forest ecosystems function this way. They were the first "organic gardeners", recycling their own leaves and fallen twigs or branches.

Another way to recycle organic matter, eliminate large compost piles and save yourself a lot of time is to create beds or areas in your landscape where materials can be recycled right where you are mowing or raking. Increasing the size and number of landscape beds helps decrease the size of the lawn (and the need to mow, rake, fertilize, or water). These beds can be planted with groundcovers that add landscape interest but still require less maintenance than grass or true gardens.

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)

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, 2012. After the March 15th deadline, the price of dog tags increase to \$15 each. 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.

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VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER

Make Sure You Follow the Rules so Your Brush gets Picked Up

Brush pick-up occurs every other Monday on the same day that recycling is picked up by Star Disposal. 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, residents are required to place them in Star Disposal yard waste bags. Tree limbs from routine trimming or storm damage can be placed on the parkway for the brush chipper every other Monday (on recycling day) for pick-up, but not entire trees with trunks, branches exceeding 6" in diameter or bushes with root balls. If a residence violates these rules, the items will not be picked up.

Brush pick-up will continue through November, and begin again in April, 2012. 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.



NOTE: THE LAST DAY STAR DISPOSAL WILL PICK-UP YARDWASTE BAGS IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH.



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 safety reasons.



HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



Trick-or-Treat hours are 4-7 p.m. on Monday, 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 & hayride in Firemen's Park (673 Penfield Street) on Monday, October 31st from 6-8 p.m.

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



Sanders Services

Mobil 1 Lube Express and Brakes

Auto Service Center 30449 Dixie Hwy. 708-946-Mobil Oil (6624)

It seems in last spring's newsletter our coupon details were unclear, and for this we would like to extend an apology.

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

**RESIDENT
BEECHER, IL 60401**



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Chamber of Commerce Festival of Lights Parade • Saturday, December 3rd

**Breakfast with Santa • Sunday, December 4th beginning at 8 a.m.
at Cardinal Creek Golf Course (Call Golf Course at 946-2800 for reservations)**

Holiday House Walk • Sunday, December 4th (see below)



BEECHER'S 8TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE WALK **Sunday, December 4, 2011 • 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



The Beecher Beautification Commission will be holding the 8th Annual Holiday House walk on Sunday, December 4th. 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.) If you are interested in putting your home in the house walk, please contact Julie at the Village Hall.

