



# The Beecher Bulletin

## "Your Village Newsletter"



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### Village of Beecher

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### WATER TOWER PARK RECEIVED A FACE LIFT *New Playground Replaces 1976 "Wizard of Oz" Theme Equipment*

Water Tower Park was first established in 1958 when the water tower was erected on a lot owned by the Village in the 600 block of Gould Street. In 1976, the Village's parks and recreation committee modernized the playground with equipment having a "Wizard of Oz" theme. As the years went by, the equipment was painted and well-maintained but the years took their toll. The rules concerning how playgrounds are to be constructed also changed.

Last year, the Village Board placed \$10,000 in its budget for a new playground. To keep costs low, the Village's Public Works crew built and installed the new equipment. The result is a new, modern playground. A picnic table and bench is also scheduled for installation in the newly-renovated park.



### CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION FOR ENTIRE VILLAGE Began October 15th



Beecher Public Works began leaf collection on Monday, October 15th. 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.



## **STREET NAME SIGN REPLACEMENT PROGRAM BEGINS**

### ***First Phase of Multi-Year Program Completed***

In 2010, the Village was advised that it would be receiving a grant of \$17,853 per year over five years in motor fuel tax funds to be used for street department-related activities. The Village Board decided that it was time to replace the old street name signs in town which were purchased in 1952 by the Women's Welfare Club and donated to the community. The Village was also facing a requirement to have all newly-installed signage meeting federal standards by the year 2018. Several designs were researched, and the Village Board selected a Victorian design 4" pole and decorative bracket which would place the street name sign at ten feet above grade. These poles also required a cement footing to keep them level and at the same height throughout town. Public Works crews are installing the signs in-house so more of the limited funding could be used to purchase the poles and signs.



The funding allows for 37 poles and signs to be erected each year. There are 72 intersections in the older part of town that had the 1952 poles and signs. These will be replaced first over the next year.

## **BEECHER VETERAN'S MEMORIAL BRICKS STILL AVAILABLE**



Bricks for the pathway to the Beecher Veteran's Memorial on Reed Street are still available for sale at the Village Hall. Bricks may be purchased by both veterans and non-veterans. Sales of the bricks allow any person to be a part of the Veteran's Memorial and also provide funding for the perpetual care of the memorial.

Bricks are \$100 each and will be placed in the pathway leading from Reed Street to the memorial (veteran's bricks) and from the gazebo on Reed Street to the memorial (non-veteran's bricks). Military logos can also be inscribed on these bricks for an additional \$35. If you would like to honor a loved one or just support the on-going maintenance of this beautiful memorial, please consider buying a brick.

For more information or brick order forms contact the Village Hall at 946-2261 or go to the Village's website at [www.villageofbeecher.org](http://www.villageofbeecher.org).

## **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 listed in the Spring 2013 newsletter. It is a living tribute that stays green for many years to come. We have 15 donors on our memorial tree plaque at this time. Please contact Ron Kuhlman at the Village Hall at 946-2261 if you would like to purchase a memorial tree.



*Beecher Manor Nursing & Rehabilitation Center*

1201 Dixie Hwy. Beecher, IL 60401

Phone: (708) 946-2600

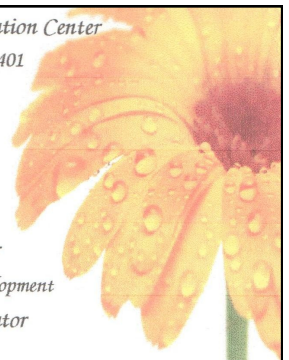
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[www.beechermanor.com](http://www.beechermanor.com)

*Michael Garner- Administrator*

*Kristine Miller- Director of Business Development*

*Erin Dwyer- Admissions Coordinator*





## BEECHER'S CENTENNIAL MEMORIAL RENOVATED

### *An unfortunate accident results in a new monument for the community*

The Beecher Centennial Memorial, located in front of the fire station at 711 Penfield Street, was constructed with the proceeds from the Beecher Centennial Celebration, when Beecher celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1970. The memorial also provides the flag stand for the Beecher Fire Department. In the Fall of 2011, a vehicle accident caused damage to the memorial and it was deemed a total loss. After several meetings with the insurance company, it was agreed that the memorial could be reconstructed using the same materials and design used in 1970. Proposals were received and Wiesch Masonry of Beecher was awarded the contract for \$10,600.

This was not an easy project. The time capsule, which was still intact, had to be removed by a backhoe and stored over the winter since it was encased in a heavy cast-iron vault. Damaged granite had to be replaced with similar material to match the existing pieces which could be re-used in the project. Weather also delayed the project until the Spring of 2012. However, the end result is a virtual replica of the 1970 memorial which should last for another 58 years when the time capsule will be removed and displayed for the enjoyment of future generations of Beecher residents.



*Centennial Memorial when originally dedicated in 1970*



*Newly renovated Centennial Memorial*



**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);

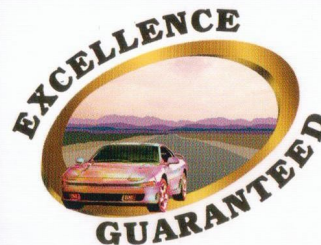
**OR**

Pay your water bill online using "EPAY". Go to [www.villageofbeecher.org](http://www.villageofbeecher.org) and click on EPAY located on the right side of the page (convenience fee applies with EPAY).



### Walt's Food Centers

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Tinley Park, IL 60477 / (708) 532-5550  
1218 Sheffield Ave.  
Dyer, IN 46311 / (219) 322-6428  
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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2012:

- Approved a special use permit for a digital display sign at De Jong Equipment, 383 S. Dixie Highway.
- Directed the Planning and Zoning Commission to review criteria and conditions for the installation of off-premise temporary retail signs and digital display signs
- Established rules for the use of the Capital Equipment Sinking Fund Account.
- Approved ordinances which amended all of Title 1 and Title 2 of the Beecher Municipal Code pertaining to Commissions, elected and appointed officials and the conduct of meetings. These are the first two of nine sections of the Village Code which are being updated by the Board. The last update occurred in 1988.
- Approved ordinances joining the Will County Aggregation Alliance and authorizing the joint purchase of electrical supply (on behalf of those residents who chose not to opt out) for a period of two years from FirstEnergy at a rate of \$0.0483 per kwh. This rate is 42% less than the current Com Ed rate of \$0.0832 per kwh. This program will go into effect in October.
- Approved a street name sign replacement program for the Village. The first two phases of the program cover 72 intersections west of Dixie Highway. The Board will discuss the remaining sections of the Village later in the year.
- Approved the purchase of a state bid John Deere Gator TX4 in the amount of \$6,617.40 from Shorewood Home and Auto.
- Approved the second phase of a multi-year water meter replacement program in the amount of \$10,000. The funding will be used to purchase the meters and public works will arrange the installation.
- Authorized the purchase of a 2013 Ford Police Interceptor to replace a 2005 Chevy Impala in the amount of \$23,163.
- Approved a proposal for the power washing of the elevated tank on Gould Street and the above ground storage tank on Church Road from H2O Towers in the amount of \$5,350.
- Authorized the distribution of a letter of opposition to Senate Bill 678 which would permit the construction of a coal-fired electric plant using State funds generated by a surcharge on electric bills.
- Approved an ordinance amending the code allowing the use of state-licensed video poker machines in liquor license establishments.

*Continued on next page*

### VILLAGE WOODS RETIREMENT & ASSISTED LIVING



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*Board meeting highlights continued*

- Approved a bid from Perm-A-Seal in the amount of \$9,489 for the paint striping of all Village streets.
- Approved a 10 year intergovernmental agreement with the school district, fire district, township, and township highway department for the joint purchasing and dispensing of fuel.
- Approved an ordinance increasing the number of Youth Commissioners from 8 to 12.
- Approved an application for a Governor's Hometown Award proposed by the Beecher Veterans Memorial (Ehlers) Commission.
- Approved a \$500 petty cash account for use by Village Commissions so that volunteers could be more quickly reimbursed for their out of pocket expenses.
- Authorized the letting of bids for replacement of watermain on Maxwell Street from Penfield to Indiana Avenue.
- Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Villages of Peotone and Monee to form a Tri-Town Cable Commission which would oversee Comcast Channel 4. Denis Tatgenhorst was then appointed as the Village's representative on this Commission.
- Authorized the posting of "no trespassing" signs along the banks of all Village-owned pond property.
- Authorized the waiving of bidding requirements due to an emergency and awarded a proposal from Layne Christiansen in the amount of \$38,799 to replace the pump and motor in Well #5.
- Referred to committee a recommendation to examine the regulations on the rental of Firemen's Park for large events.
- Adopted a resolution supporting the B3 alignment as the preferred corridor for the Illiana Expressway.

*The Village Board meets regularly on the second Monday of each month and on an as-needed basis on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center, 30200 Town Center Road. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. Agendas and minutes of meetings can be found on the Village's website, [villageofbeecher.org](http://villageofbeecher.org). Meetings are also broadcast on Comcast Channel 4. Please refer to Channel 4 (WPAL) for meeting broadcast schedule.*



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## 2012 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION WRAP-UP

### *Heat Played a Role in Lower Attendance and Net Proceeds*

Despite the heat and resulting lower attendance figures, the Beecher Fourth of July Commission declared another safe and successful celebration for 2012. Although the bottom line is not what was hoped for and not what the Commission had accomplished in prior years, all Commissioners knew that sometime there was going to be a challenge from the weather. The early July heat wave proved relentless, resulting in the hottest 4<sup>th</sup> of July on record, with temperatures over 100 degrees two days in a row. This was the year that the weather proved to be a detriment.

The net proceeds from festival stands after all bills were paid was \$75,760.21. However, after the overall festival costs of the fireworks (\$23,500), parade (\$9,179.46), evening and daytime entertainment (\$23,765), publicity (\$10,559.54), general overhead (\$9,273.80) and overall maintenance of Firemen's Park for the year (\$14,977.09), an actual net loss of \$15,494.68 was recorded. What is so important to the success of the festival is our sponsors, which contributed \$24,200 this year, putting the Commission back in the black with a net gain of \$8,705.32.

The Beecher Fourth of July Commission has \$78,201.83 on account as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. This money will be used to pre-pay many of the 2013 festival expenses that are coming up such as the purchase of a car for the raffle, deposits for the entertainment, maintenance of the park and buildings, purchasing all of the beer before opening day as required by state law, and publicity. The Commission has also set aside \$50,000 to cover all of the expenses of one festival should there be a total wash-out or cancellation. This has happened to other festivals in the past where several days of severe storms washed out an entire weekend resulting in huge losses.

The role of the Commission is to not make money, but to provide a quality event for the community. However, there are costs to keeping the park looking nice year-round. The use of the park is also growing, which is a very positive sign. The Village salutes the work of all of its Commissions and their volunteers which help make Beecher a better place to live and raise a family.



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## VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER

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, 2013. 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 26TH.**



## 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

Trick-or-Treat hours are 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

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 Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 p.m.

Have Fun & be safe! \*\*\*\* Check candy before eating



## DOG TAGS GO ON SALE MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

Dog tags go on sale at the Village Hall on Monday, December 3rd. The price is \$10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2013. 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.



## Village of Beecher

724 Penfield Street/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:  
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Fire Non Emergency:  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Youth Commission Trunk or Treat • Saturday, October 27 from 6-8 p.m.**  
in Beecher High School parking lot

**Chamber of Commerce Festival of Lights Parade • Saturday, December 1st**

**Breakfast with Santa • Sunday, December 2nd beginning at 8 a.m.**  
at Cardinal Creek Golf Course (Call Golf Course at 946-2800 for reservations)

**Holiday House Walk • Sunday, December 2nd (see below)**



## **BEECHER'S 9TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE WALK**

**Sunday, December 2, 2012 • 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



The Beecher Beautification Commission will be holding the 9th Annual Holiday House walk on Sunday, December 2nd. 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.

