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### NEW VILLAGE HALL NEARING COMPLETION

***Move from 724 Penfield Street to 625 Dixie Highway to Occur Mid November***

Last December the Beecher Village Board purchased the old Advance/Chase Bank building at 625 Dixie Highway for \$125,000. An additional \$265,000 was set aside in reserves to remodel the building into a new Village Hall. The Police Department would then expand into the current Village space. The new Village Hall will include a Board Room for Village meetings and 2,400 square feet of space. The Police Department will gain approximately 950 square feet of new space. This expansion of Village offices is the first since 2004 when the old Village Board room at 724 Penfield was converted to office space and all Village meetings were moved to the Washington Township Center.



This project is nearing completion and remains within the \$265,000 budget set for this project. The new Village Board room will also serve as an emergency operations center if a disaster were to occur in the community and can also be used for other community meetings, functions and employee training sessions. A drive-up window can serve residents from their vehicles and a drop off mailbox will be provided for after hours use. Parking at the Village Hall will also improve for residents attending meetings and visiting the Village Hall.

As of this printing, the walls and ceilings are in place and fixtures are being set. The parking lot has been seal coated and re-stripped. Sometime in mid November (the target day is Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>) the Village Hall will be relocated from 724 Penfield and the phone lines will be switched over. Please check the Village website for updates on the moving date. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience to residents that may occur during this moving process.

### Village of Beecher

#### OFFICIALS

Greg Szymanski  
*President*

#### Trustees:

Scott Wehling  
Ronald Kuhlman  
Gayle Ahrendt  
Brian Cleary  
Jonathan Kypuros  
Marcy Meyer

Janett Conner  
*Clerk*

Kim Koutsky  
*Treasurer*

Robert O. Barber  
*Administrator*

Jeffrey Weissgerber  
*Chief of Police*

Harold "Bud" Cowger  
*Supt. of Public Works*

### CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION FOR ENTIRE VILLAGE



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. You can call the Village Hall for any further questions.

## VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Periodically members of the Village Board are stopped on the street and asked about something going on in the Village. I thought I would share some of these questions with you.



Greg Szymanski  
Village President

### *What are all the markings on the street on Penfield?*

- The Village hired the engineering firm of Baxter and Woodman to prepare a full application for federal transportation funding to improve Penfield from Dixie to Gould Street. This would repair or replace pavement and water main on Penfield. It may take five years before we obtain our funding but this work is required to make the project eligible.

### *Why have we had so many water main breaks in the area of Penfield and Catalpa?*

- We believe two water valves are damaged and will have to be replaced on Penfield. Yes, it is also part of our aging water mains which I mentioned above. Once we replace these valves, fewer residents in this area would be affected if a break occurs.

### *When will Casey's open? Do we need another gas station?*

- Casey's is planning to open on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Casey's did a market study and approached the Village. We did not approach them. They applied for a special use permit which the Village can only deny if we have legal grounds to do so. The other gas stations in town are owned by the same company. Therefore, a gas station owned by another company provides competition which is good for the consumer.

### *If my tree is taken down, will it be replaced?*

- The white "X" markings on many of our parkway trees indicate a dead or dying tree which will be removed by Public Works. We hope to eventually replace every tree that is taken down. We only have enough funds to purchase 20 to 30 new parkway trees each year but we are losing over 100 trees this year. The Emerald Ash Borer and the weather are contributing to the problem.

### *Can we do anything about the train whistles?*

- Obviously, traffic on the tracks has increased and so has the noise. For the past year the Village has been researching creating what is called a "quiet zone" and hopes to make application to do so. It cannot happen overnight. Once the application is approved improvements must be made to the crossings.

### *Who is doing Code Enforcement?*

- The Police Department is handling code enforcement and has assigned Aaron Dacorte to do so. If you have any concerns or complaints call the Village Hall directly at 708-946-2261.

### *What happened to the women's bathroom at Firemen's Park?*

- The women's bathroom has been vandalized and repaired twice this summer. We need to order parts to complete repairs. Since we are nearing the time of year where we have to close and winterize the bathrooms, we will repair the bathroom in the spring. At times we have also found the men's bathroom vandalized.

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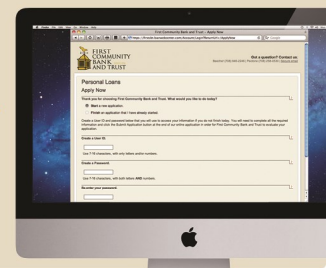


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**Steve Koehn**  
Vice President

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**ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE BEECHER FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION**  
***A commitment is made to construct a new picnic pavilion/beer stand for Firemen's Park***



The final tallies are in and the 2014 celebration produced a net income of \$25,245.52. However, Firemen's Park maintenance activities cost \$22,858.35 so the actual net income for 2014 is \$2,387.17. Maintenance includes park mowing, weed control, fertilization, tree, shrub and flower planting, mulch, seal coating, electrical, and repairs to tables and chairs used in the park.

Since 2000, the Beecher Fourth of July Commission has been able to make improvements to park facilities, maintain the park and accumulate a reserve of \$105,000. \$45,000 of this reserve is set aside to finance next year's celebration and park maintenance.

In 2013, the Commission approved a plan to demolish the old beer stand/storage garage and replace it with a larger picnic pavilion accessible to the public year-round and construct a separate storage garage for use by the Commission and Beecher Recreation. The old Beecher Recreation concession stand would also be relocated to a new concession building meeting current codes and the old stand would be torn down. It was hoped that all three projects could be completed this year but insufficient funding will require this plan to be completed in phases.

The first phase is to build a new 40' x 80' picnic pavilion. This project has begun with the demolition of the old beer stand. The new pavilion will be constructed with volunteer labor and a materials cost of \$60,000. This work has already begun and it is hoped that the new beer stand/picnic pavilion will be dedicated on the opening day of the 2015 celebration. This project alone will use up all of the unobligated reserve of the celebration's account. The proceeds of the 2015 celebration will then be used to relocate the concession stand which is estimated to cost \$10,000 in materials. It may be 2017 or 2018 before the new storage garage can be constructed to the northeast of the new picnic pavilion.

All of these projects are being completed with volunteer help and with funds and donations earned during the celebration. No tax dollars are being used.

And by the way, plans are already going into place for next year. After making a change in the fireworks last year, it was decided that the fireworks should go back to the original show as provided in the past. The new carnival used this year will be back for 2015 and 2016. The celebration will run from Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> to Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Plan on attending next year's celebration with the understanding that every dollar earned by the celebration stays in your park!



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**STAY INFORMED WITH NIXLE!**

The Police Department launched a Community Notification Service called "Nixle" about 5 years ago, to improve communication with people who live, work and visit our area. Through Nixle, messages are delivered securely to citizens by e-mail and cell phone, supporting and expanding our community outreach efforts.

Obviously, the system will be most effective when we have large numbers of subscribers, so please spread the word and sign up for Nixle. 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 [villageofbeecher.org](http://villageofbeecher.org) to sign up.

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2014:*

- ✓ Approved a temporary use permit for a 8' x 40' storage container enclosed by a fence at the rear of Faith Community Church, 201 East Church Road.
- ✓ Approved the installation of two scoreboards in Firemen's Park provided by Beecher Recreation.
- ✓ Renewed a five year agreement with Independent Inspections, Inc. for building department services with a 5% increase in inspection cost and adopted an ordinance with a 5% increase in building permit fees.
- ✓ Adopted a revised and updated personnel manual for Village employees.
- ✓ Authorized the replacement of the roof at 625 Dixie Highway in the amount of \$32,905.
- ✓ Considered 15 bids and awarded a contract to the lowest compliant bid: JDK Construction of Peotone in the amount of \$129,500 for the remodeling of 625 Dixie Highway into a new Village Hall.
- ✓ Purchased two Dodge Challengers as police squad car replacements in the amount of \$50,000.
- ✓ Approved the installation of variable speed drives replacing the set speed drives in the main water pumping station in the amount of \$16,593 to reduce pressure fluctuations and watermain breaks.
- ✓ Authorized the acceptance of a bid in the amount of \$21,844.07 from Superior Road Striping for thermoplastic striping of Village crosswalks, stop bars and parking lines.
- ✓ Approved an intergovernmental agreement for participation in the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) creating a mutual aid system for the Police Department.
- ✓ Approved a five year lease agreement with Surf Air Wireless for use of the Village's water tower in exchange for \$225/month lease fee and up to five 20 MEG connections for free Village government internet service.
- ✓ Approved \$25,825 in asphalt restorations and \$12,195 in landscaping restorations due to new watermain installations and watermain breaks.
- ✓ Approved the use of the Village's water tower for a new microwave repeater system to be used by the fire protection agencies in eastern Will County. This new system improves communications amongst these agencies thereby increasing resident safety.

*Continued on next page*



### Physical Therapy

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**Franciscan St. James Health Center at Beecher**

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Brett Grandon, PT  
Mary Ann DiScorpio, PTA

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*"Board meeting highlights" continued*

- ✓ Approved the installation of ornamental street name sign poles in Hunter's Chase East, Prairie Park and Prairie Crossings South subdivisions. The remainder of town will be completed in 2015.
- ✓ Learned that the new three year rate for municipal aggregation electric service beginning October 1<sup>st</sup> will be \$0.0699. This is an increase from the current rate of \$0.0483 but lower than the Com Ed rate of \$0.07022.
- ✓ Approved a resolution opposing any landfill in eastern Kankakee County.
- ✓ Approved an engineering agreement with Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$150,000 to complete Phase I design of the reconstruction of Penfield from Dixie to Gould and approved a loan of the same amount from First Community Bank and Trust for a period of 10 years at an interest rate of 2.15% to be repaid from the Infrastructure Account.
- ✓ Learned that the Police Department will be converting to the STARCOMM radio system which will be the standard radio system of the EASTCOM dispatch center.
- ✓ Learned that the Police Department has obtained two HUM-V four wheel drive vehicles at no cost from federal military surplus. These vehicles will be equipped for Winter use by the Police Department during inclement weather.
- ✓ Approved leak detection of the entire Village water system at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.
- ✓ Approved a bid from Perm-A-Seal in the amount of \$0.85 per foot to conduct crack sealing of certain selected Village streets not to exceed \$20,000.
- ✓ Learned that the Emerald Ash Borer is in the process of killing over 100 trees on Village parkways. Removal of the trees has begun.
- ✓ Approved a new housing incentive ordinance granting deferral of water and sewer tap-in fees until time of final inspection and granting a \$2,000 credit on the water and sewer bill for any new purchaser/occupant of a newly-constructed single family home.

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- ✓ Approved an ordinance creating incentives for any new business locating in the historic downtown business district along Gould, Penfield and Reed Streets.
- ✓ Approved a contract in the amount of \$28,500 to Melrose Pyrotechnics for the 2015 Fourth of July fireworks display.
- ✓ Learned that the Village can only purchase 600 tons of salt for the coming Winter at a price of \$109.25 per ton due to a salt shortage. Although the Village's reserve supply will not be replenished, this order should be sufficient to cover the coming Winter.

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center, 30200 Town Center Road. In November, the meetings will be re-located to 625 Dixie Highway. Residents are invited to attend these meetings. Meetings are also archived on You Tube and are shown regularly on Comcast WPAL Channel 4. Check WPAL's channel schedule for dates and times.



## IT TAKES MANY RESIDENTS/VOLUNTEERS TO RUN A VILLAGE

It has been quite some time since this newsletter has published the names of all those appointed to serve on Village Commissions. Here is the full list of residents involved with your Village volunteer Commissions appointed by the Village President in June of 2014:

### Planning and Zoning Commission:

Paul Lohmann (*term expires 5/1/17*)  
Althea Machtemes (*term expires 5/1/17*)  
Lance Saller (*term expires 5/1/15*)  
Phil Serviss (*term expires 5/1/15*)  
George Schuitema (*term expires 5/1/15*)  
Denis Tatgenhorst (*term expires 5/1/16*)  
Kevin Bouchard (*term expires 5/1/16*)  
Chair of Planning, Building and Zoning  
Committee (on Village Board) sits as ex-officio member



### Beecher Youth Commission

Jonathan Kypuros, Village Representative  
Brandy Flores  
Teri Kasput  
Ben Jones  
Kyle Mose  
Tiffany Messana  
Jeanette Chose  
Laura Irwin  
Trish Moran  
Elizabeth Delgado  
Roger Sipple, ex-officio



### Ribbon of Hope Commission

Scott Wehling, Village Representative  
Dean Bettenhausen  
Brian Cleary  
Barbara Hodgett  
Chris Szymanski  
Howard Perry  
Nadia Schmidt  
Myra Kocsis  
Susan Sebastian  
Mike Stanula



### Fourth of July Commission

Chuck Hoehn  
Ron Kuhlman, Village Representative  
Jonathan Kypuros  
Marcy Meyer  
Bill Voss  
Nelson Collins  
Brad Coats  
Larry Cox  
Ken Bobowoski  
Barb Hodgett  
Steve Koehn  
Jerry Meyer  
Greg Ohlendorf  
Patty Meyer  
Robert Barber  
Joe Gardner  
Bruce Becker  
Laura Voss  
Kevin Bouchard  
George Obradovich  
Trish Moran



### Beautification Commission

Gayle Ahrendt, Village Representative  
Paul Lohmann  
Sandy Lohmann  
Steve Weishaar  
Paula Weishaar  
Jan Vanramshorst  
Jean Smith  
Andrew Ahrendt  
Christine Coats  
Melissa Ohlendorf

George Obradovich  
Amy Smith



### Preservation Commission

Scott Wehling, Village Representative  
Paul Lohmann  
(Up to six more members to be  
determined later)



**HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR SMARTPHONE APP YET??**

The Village has launched a new Smartphone App to give residents another tool to stay informed and up to date on what's happening in the community.



Download the app by going to the Google Play Store or Apple Store or scan the code for your type of phone:



ANDROID



APPLE



**NOTE: THE LAST DAY STAR DISPOSAL WILL PICK-UP YARDWASTE BAGS IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH.**

**VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION  
PROGRAM TO CONTINUE  
THROUGH NOVEMBER**


Brush pick-up will be conducted every other Monday on the same day that recycling is collected. Brush pick-up will continue through November, and begin again in April, 2015. 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.


**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 Friday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

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 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 13, 2015. After the March 13th 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 Dr. McKay and Beecher Veterinary Clinic for picking up, feeding and boarding stray animals and lost pets.



## Village of Beecher

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:  
946-2341

Fire Non Emergency:  
946-6585

Web Site: [www.villageofbeecher.org](http://www.villageofbeecher.org)

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

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

**Youth Commission Fall Fair at Beecher Junior High School • November 15th**

**Holiday House Walk • Sunday, December 7th (see below)**

**Chamber of Commerce Festival of Lights Parade • Saturday, December 6th**

**Breakfast with Santa • Sunday, December 7th beginning at 8 a.m.  
at Cardinal Creek Golf Course (Call Golf Course at 946-2800 for reservations)**

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHOWCASE YOUR HOME IN THE 2014 HOLIDAY HOUSE WALK?**

The Beecher Women's Club is continuing the great tradition of the Holiday House Walk on December 7th but they need your help! They are still looking for houses to participate in the house walk. It is a fun event and a great way to start your holiday season and show off your holiday decorating skills! If you are interested, please call Village Hall at 946-2261.

