



The Beecher Bulletin

“Your Village Newsletter”



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INSERTS: Brick Order Forms

EHLERS' BEQUEST COMMITTEE LAUNCHES BUY-A-BRICK CAMPAIGN to Raise Funds for the Beecher Veteran's Memorial Project

(Donation forms included in newsletter)

In 2009, the estate of Garneta Ehlers provided \$50,000 to the Village for the purposes of completing a project for the community. A committee was formed by the Village to recommend a needed project in the community and to oversee the project's completion. The committee selected the construction of a Beecher Community Veteran's Memorial to be constructed on land leased to the Village by the Union Pacific Railroad in Depot Park at the southwest corner of Reed and Hodges Streets. It was also decided that additional fundraising was needed to complete the project which is estimated to cost \$85,000. Since that time, \$29,000 in corporate and individual donations have been received and \$6,000 is needed to reach the committee's goal. There is also a need to provide funding for the perpetual care of the memorial.

The committee wanted to provide an avenue for recognition of individual veterans at the memorial and to also recognize non-veterans who have donated to the cause. A “buy-a-brick” campaign was launched in February, allowing any person to purchase a brick for \$100 and having one's name inscribed on the brick. These bricks will be used to build a pathway leading from Reed Street to the memorial (the veteran's pathway) and from the gazebo on Reed Street to the memorial (the non-veteran pathway). Logos can also be inscribed on these bricks for an additional \$35. Order forms for these bricks are provided in this newsletter.

The memorial is currently under construction. A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, September 11, 2011 when the memorial will be unveiled and dedicated. All residents are invited to attend this ceremony and recognize the service of our veterans.

Village of Beecher

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Construction has begun on the new veteran's memorial at the corner of Reed and Hodges.



BEECHER'S 84TH ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Schedule of Activities Released by the Commission

It's hard to believe but we are only a few months away from another fabulous summer celebration!

This year there are a few new items added to the schedule. A kiddie and pet parade is planned for Saturday, July 2nd. Line-up will be at Zion Lutheran School (Oak Park and Penfield) from 11:00 am to 11:30 am and the parade will run east on Penfield from Oak Park down to the Park. Following this parade, Family Day in the park will open with a magician on the main stage, an extreme obstacle course, balloon artists and pony rides. On Sunday, July 3rd the afternoon fun continues with the annual bean bag tournament and Chamber of Commerce pork chop dinner, rib cook-off, and the return of an authentic German band to the main stage. Also on the main stage will be a presentation by the famous "Little People" comedy troupe.

Evening entertainment this year includes "Iron Horse" on Friday night, "Maggie Speaks" on Saturday night, "Original Hazard County Band" on Sunday night, and "K.O. Bossy" on Monday night. As always, admission is free to all of our main stage events.

On Monday, July 4th, the celebration culminates with the parade at 4:00 p.m. and fireworks at 9:30 p.m. So mark your calendars now and come see old friends and neighbors at this year's Fourth of July celebration!



Schedule below is tentative and subject to change:

Friday July 1st - 6 pm -12 midnight

- Wristbands - 6-10 pm
- "Iron Horse" - 7-11 pm on main stage
- \$250 early bird drawing from car raffle - 11 pm

Saturday, July 2nd - noon to 12 midnight

- Kiddie & Pet Parade kicks off at 11:30 am at Zion down to park
- Petting zoo
- Wristbands - noon - 4 pm
- Extreme obstacle course - 1-5 pm
- Magician on main stage - 12:30-1:30 pm
- Balloon artist, pony rides
- PAKT - 3 pm
- Nitro Joe's Science Show - 4-5 pm
- "Maggie Speaks" - 7-11 pm on main stage
- \$250 early bird drawing from car raffle - 11 pm

Sunday, July 3rd - noon - 12 mid-night

- Petting zoo
- Rib cook-off - 10 am - 2 pm
- Wristbands - noon - 4 pm
- Bean bag tournament - 1 pm
- "Die Musikmeisters" German band - 2-5 pm
- Pork chop dinner - 4-7 pm
- "Little People" Comedy Troupe on main stage - 5-6 pm
- "Original Hazard County Band" - 7-11 pm
- \$250 early bird drawing from car raffle - 11 pm

Monday, July 4th - noon to 12 midnight

- Lions Club 5K Run - 7 am
- Car & food stands open at noon, all other stands open at 3pm
- Parade at 4 pm with line-up from 2-3:30 pm
- "K.O. Bossy" - 7 pm -9:30 pm., 9:50 pm -11:00 pm
- Fireworks - 9:30 pm
- Car raffle - 11:00 pm



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VILLAGE RE-APPLIES FOR IEPA LOAN TO REPLACE WATERMAINS

Sections of Penfield Street, Maxwell Street, and Indiana Avenue to be affected

In 2009, the Village applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for a \$986,000 federal loan at 0% interest with 25% principal forgiveness through the "American Recovery and Reconstruction Act" to replace watermain on portions of Penfield Street, Maxwell Street and Indiana Avenue. However, this loan was not approved due to a lack of federal funds.

Last Fall, the IEPA contacted the Village and offered a simple interest loan through its revolving loan program of 1.25% for 20 years for the same project. After analyzing this loan offer, it was determined that the Village could only afford a \$680,000 loan. This loan would be repaid using the \$4 per billing charge placed on the water bills last year for watermain replacement. The question now becomes how much of the original project can the Village complete with the smaller loan.

In December, the Village Board authorized an application to the IEPA for the \$680,000 loan, and to take bids on the project in four segments in order of priority: Maxwell Street from Penfield to Indiana, Indiana Avenue from Dunbar to Oak Park, Penfield Street from Woodward to Trim Creek, and Penfield Street from the creek to Dixie Highway. In the last three years, over 50% of all watermain breaks in the Village occurred in these four segments of pipe, causing disruption of service and expensive repairs and restorations. It is the intent of the Village to replace those watermain having the highest maintenance costs. In the last 10 years, watermain on Orchard, Meadow, and Country Lanes west of Dixie Highway and on portions of Dunbar, Elliott and Miller Streets were replaced which reduced the overall number of watermain breaks per year by more than 50%. The Village's goal is to reduce the annual number of watermain breaks to less than 10 per year.

If the Village is awarded this loan, construction would occur after August 1st, but most likely between January and April of 2012, when construction costs are at their lowest and residents would be inconvenienced the least. Bids will be let in late Summer, and the pricing of these bids will determine how much main can be replaced. Further updates will be provided in the Fall newsletter.



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).

Sanders Services

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BEECHER VETERINARY CLINIC

DANIEL E. MCKAY, D.V.M.

700 Dixie Highway, P.O. Box 1171

Beecher, Illinois 60401

Telephone: (708) 946-3131





VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Fall of 2010:

- Denied a request for a variance to allow a residential unit on the first floor of a commercial building in the Historic Downtown Business District at 759 Penfield Street.
- Authorized the crack sealing of various streets throughout the Village for an amount not to exceed \$19,900.00 and awarding a bid to Denlar Construction of Frankfort.
- Authorized a contract with Iroquois Paving in an amount not to exceed \$7,500.00 for the repair of approximately 100 lineal feet of damaged curb on Chestnut and Linden, east of Dixie Highway.
- Approved a contract with Don Thomas as Village Planner at an hourly rate of pay on an as needed basis only.
- Approved the installation of a Beecher Muskies Baseball Team national championship sign on Dixie Highway on the north edge of town.
- Accepted the audit for Fiscal Year 2009/2010 and a qualified opinion of same from Smith, Koelling, Dykstra and Ohm, CPA.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing establishment of the Eastern Will County Council of Mayors for health management cooperative as a sub-pool of the Illinois Public Benefits Cooperative. This ordinance allows the Village to become self-funded and part of a larger health insurance pool for its employees.
- After discussion reached a consensus not to pursue commuter rail for downtown Beecher at this time.
- Approved a resolution supporting the Vincennes multi-purpose recreational trail linking Nantucket Cove Subdivision at Eagle Lake Road with the Goodenow Forest Preserve.
- Adopted a resolution reaffirming the Village's position on the proposed South Suburban Airport. This resolution combines the past resolutions that were adopted concerning the airport in the past twenty years.
- Approved a motion cancelling the second Village Board meeting of each month as a cost-saving measure but leaving the door open to hold additional meetings during the year when necessary.
- Approved a motion authorizing staff to continue investigating the option of purchasing electric power on behalf of all residents of the Village to reduce residential electric rates. Forming such a cooperative would require a referendum.
- Approved the installation of a sign on Route #1 at the north and south entrances to town recognizing the Beecher Boys Cross Country Team's state championship.

Continued on next page

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Board meeting highlights continued

- Approved an ordinance adopting a tax levy for 2010, collectible in 2011.
- Adopted a resolution approving a five-year financial plan for fiscal years 2011 through 2015.
- Approved a motion authorizing the installation of No Parking signs on the west side of Reed Street from Hodges to the depot.
- Approved the application for a loan in the amount of \$680,000 from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's water revolving fund for the replacement of watermain on Maxwell Street, Indiana Avenue and Penfield Street.
- Approved a motion authorizing the Public Works Superintendent to obtain bids for the repair of lighting for Firemen's Park, field #1.
- Approved a resolution adopting an authorization procedure for the issuance of payments from commission and special accounts held by the Village of Beecher.
- Approved a resolution authorizing line item transfers in the water and sewer departments to cover the cost of repairs to equipment and natural gas usage.
- Authorized the repair of the F800 dump truck by welding on new hinges, rails and beams to the box at a cost not to exceed \$3,445, as bid by Stolzenbach Welding.
- Approved an equipment replacement plan for fiscal years 2011 through 2019.
- Authorized the Public Safety Committee to draft an ordinance amending the Village Code pertaining to dogs. It was noted that there were inconsistencies in the Village Code which do not permit proper enforcement.
- Approved a bid from Will-Dupage FS for the joint purchase of fuel for the 2011 year in an amount of 15 cents per gallon over low rack prices, FOB Chicago.
- Approved a motion authorizing the completion of public improvements in The Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision and Nantucket Cove Subdivision.
- Approved the appointment of Bruce Becker to the Beecher Fourth of July Commission.
- Accepted a donation of land on the north side of Indiana Avenue along the east side of Trim Creek.
- Approved the hiring of Ronald Mazurek as full-time police officer replacing Corporal Dopke who resigned to become a full-time police officer for the Village of Lemont.



The Village Board normally meets 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. The meetings on the fourth Mondays may be cancelled due to a lack of business. Please contact the Village Hall to check the status of these meetings. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are also televised on Comcast Cable, Channel 4, WPAL, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Check the cable channel line-up for the exact times of the broadcasts.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW.....

YARD WASTE BAGS

Collection of yard waste bags by Star Disposal resumed April 4th. Yard waste bags may be placed at the curb for regular Monday pick-up until the end of November. Yard waste bags should not be placed out to the curb for pick-up prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before pick-up (see info below under garbage pick-up rules). Residents must use bags with the Star Disposal logo on them. The cost of the bag includes the fee for disposal of the yard waste. Bags can be purchased at various local businesses and at the Village Hall. The Village Hall charges \$2.25 per bag or 10 bags for \$20. Yard waste bags without the Star Disposal logo will not be picked up.



GARBAGE PICK-UP RULES



Residential garbage collection in the Village is conducted by Star Disposal every Monday (unless a major holiday falls on Monday then collection is on Tuesday). Garbage should be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day. **The Village of Beecher has an ordinance that garbage and yard waste bags cannot be placed at the curb for pick-up prior to 5:00 p.m. the evening before collection day. Those that put out garbage or yard waste bags before 5:00 p.m. the day before pick-up will be ticketed.** All containers must be removed from the Village parkway within 24 hours of the pick-up time. Garbage should be placed in a container with a close-fitting cover so trash cannot blow around.

RECYCLING COLLECTION

Recyclables are picked up in the Village every other Monday by Star Disposal (unless a major holiday falls on Monday then collection is on Tuesday). Residents must use the recycling bin provided free of charge by Star Disposal and place at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day with the handle of the container facing the house. For a list of items that may be recycled or for a collection schedule, contact the Village Hall or go to <http://www.stardisposal.com/Residential/beecher.html>.



VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM



2011 brush pick-up started in early April. Brush pick-up will occur every other Monday on the same day that recycling is picked up by Star Disposal. For specific rules, contact the Village Hall or see page 14 of the 2011 Beecher HomePages phone directory. Brush pick-up will continue through November.

ARE YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS STILL UP?

The Village has recently received some complaints regarding neighbors who have not yet taken their Christmas decorations down. Some of the decorations look worn and unsightly. The Village realizes due to weather and other considerations that decorations sometimes stay up longer than intended. It is asked that residents be considerate of their neighbors and take their decorations down to keep their neighborhood looking nice.



ANNUAL WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE ON MAY WATER BILLING

The annual water and sewer rate increase will be reflected on the May 2011 water bill. Water rates will be increased by 10 cents per thousand gallons and sewer rates by 10 cents per thousand gallons effective March 1st. These annual increases were previously implemented to keep up with rising costs for chemicals, testing supplies, electric, natural gas and other things needed for keeping the water and sewer systems running.

The overall increase for a resident who uses 8,000 gallons or less of water will be \$1.60 per billing period.

If you live in one of the newer subdivisions and pay a Lift Station (LS) charge on your water bill, the lift station charge will also increase by 2 cents per thousand gallons of water used.

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VILLAGE CONDUCTING WATER CONSUMER SURVEY
Village Required to Survey Effectiveness of Cross-Connection Prevention Program



Every few years the Village is required by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to provide its water customers an opportunity to answer some questions about their use of the Village water supply and internal plumbing issues. Please take the time to clip out the survey below, circle the correct response, and either mail your response with your next water bill payment or drop it off at the Village Hall in the lobby or in the mail slot. If you have any questions about this survey, please call the public works department at 946-3636. Thank you for your cooperation.

Harold "Bud" Cowger, Supt. Of Public Works

WATER SURVEY

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

1. Is your home connected to another source of water other than the Village's water system, such as a private well or cistern, which shares the same plumbing?

Yes No
2. Do you have hot water heat?

Yes No
3. Do you have a fire sprinkler system in your home or building?

Yes No
4. If you answered "no" to all the questions above, skip this question. If you answered "yes" to any of the questions above, do you have a backflow prevention device installed on your plumbing which provides a fixed air gap separating the Village's water service from your internal plumbing?

Yes No

Please cut out and return this survey to the Beecher Village Hall by June 1, 2011. Thanks again for your cooperation.



Josh Baumgartner, Agent

993 Dixie Highway
 Beecher, IL 60401
(708) 946-0190 Phone
(708) 946-0234 Fax
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Police Non Emergency:
946-2341

Fire Non Emergency:
946-6585

website: www.villageofbeecher.org
email: clerk@villageofbeecher.org

**RESIDENT
BEECHER, IL 60401**



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*Are you a local business and would like to advertise in the Village and Township newsletters?
Contact the Village Hall at 946-2261 for pricing information. Available space is limited.*



UPCOMING EVENTS



Chamber of Commerce Car Cruise Nights
-1st and 3rd Wednesdays, May 18 thru September 7
in grassy area south of Buddy's Drive In

Bicycle Rodeo • Saturday, June 4th in Firemen's Park (rain date June 11th)

Garage Sale Days • June 17-18

Drivin' the Dixie & Annual Street Dance on Reed Street (at the Depot) • June 18

4th of July Celebration • July 1 - July 4 in Firemen's Park

Lions Club Annual Beef Roast/Craft Show • August 6 in Firemen's Park