

## **PARK DISTRICT REFERENDUM FOR VILLAGE OF BEECHER RESIDENTS ON MARCH 17 PRIMARY BALLOT**

A referendum question will appear on the upcoming March 17 primary election ballot regarding establishing a park district in the Village of Beecher. This is a **non-binding** referendum. A non-binding referendum gauges public opinion but it does NOT automatically establish a park district. This referendum question will only be on the ballot for Village of Beecher residents. The referendum question was initiated by the Village and the Village cannot authorize a referendum for Washington Township residents.

If a majority of Beecher residents are interested in establishing a park district, it would be up to the residents to form a group to actually establish the park district. This group would then begin the process of determining finances, services, what area the district would encompass (Village only vs Village and township), etc. As an existing taxing body, this is something the Village cannot do.

### ***The referendum question will read:***

**Shall a park district be created in the Village of Beecher by its residents that would have the authority to tax and provide park and recreation services and activities for all ages?**

There are pros and cons to establishing a park district. Several are listed below.

#### **PROS**

- ⇒ Provides a method for maintaining and improving existing parks
- ⇒ Provides recreation, fitness and social opportunities for all age groups
- ⇒ Adds value to homes in the area

#### **CONS**

- ⇒ Creates a new taxing body that adds to local taxes
- ⇒ Requires elected or appointed board members who may or may not have experience in running a district
- ⇒ Requires a lot of time to be spent in the original establishment and continued management of the district

*It is important to note that you do not have to vote for candidates in the primary in order to vote on the referendum. You can request a non-partisan ballot and only vote on this issue. For any questions regarding this referendum call the Village Hall at 708-946-2261.*