

# THE BEECHER BULLETIN

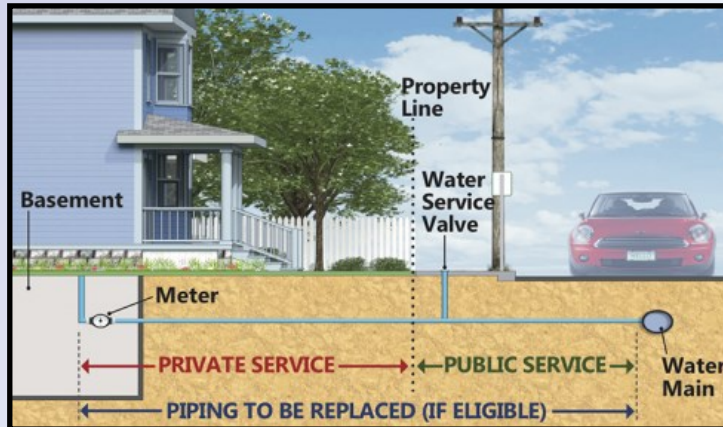
"Your Village Newsletter"

Spring 2021

## Inside this Issue:

Board Meeting Highlights	5,6
Brush Collection	9
Calendar	12
Capital Improvement Projects	3
Farmer's Market	1
COVID-19 Vaccine	4
Electronic Waste Disposal	8
Fourth of July Festival	4
Homewood Disposal Contract	6
Lead Service Line Replacement	1
New Businesses	8
Passing of the Torch	2
Railroad Quiet Zone	10
Upcoming Events	12
Village President's Corner	2
Water/Sewer Rate Increase	7
Yard Waste	9

## VILLAGE BOARD APPROVES MAJOR GRANT PROJECT TO REMOVE ALL LEAD SERVICE LINES (Work May Begin as Early as this May)



On March 22<sup>nd</sup> the Village Board awarded a bid to Brandt Excavating of Morris, IL in the amount of \$2,452,950 to remove approximately 380 lead water service lines that may exist in the Village south of Church Road and west of Dixie Highway. Funding for this project is coming from a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency which the Village applied for back in 2019. The Village was not under any obligation to replace these lines, but the Village Board believed that new State regulations would eventually require the removal of these lines and grant funding may not be available down the road. Currently there is no lead being found at the taps since the Village is using a chemical to coat the pipes protecting residents from any lead contamination. However, it is in the best interest of our residents to remove these lines up to the meter to insure safe drinking water for generations to come.

The removal of 380 lead service lines is an estimate only. The contractor will be required to investigate each residence to determine if a lead water line into the home exists and if so it will then be replaced. The contractor is paid on a per unit basis and a grant cap of \$4 million has been provided. If there is lead plumbing inside the home the homeowner is responsible for the replacement of those pipes but will not be required to remove them. If you have any questions regarding this program please feel free to contact the Village Hall at 708-946-2261.

## Village of Beecher

### OFFICIALS

Greg Szymanski  
*President*

#### Trustees:

Scott Wehling  
Jonathan Kypuros  
Marcy Meyer  
Ben Juzeszyn  
Stacy Mazurek  
Todd Kraus

Janett Conner  
*Clerk*

Donna Rooney  
*Treasurer*

Robert O. Barber  
*Administrator*

Greg Smith  
*Chief of Police*

Matt Conner  
*Supt. of Public Works*



## BEECHER FARMER'S MARKET RETURNS!

**2nd and 4th Saturdays May through October  
in the Village Hall Parking Lot, 625 Dixie Highway**

The Village of Beecher is happy to welcome back St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Beecher's farmer's market in the Village Hall parking lot at 625 Dixie Highway for 2021. The market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month May through October.

For more information on the Farmer's Market, visit their Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/BeecherFarmersMarket>. We hope to see you there!

## VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to spring. As you all know, I have decided not to run again. I am at a point in my life that I want to spend more time with my family and friends and truly retire. I want to thank our staff, volunteers and our commission members for their countless number of hours they dedicate to the Village.

Thank *you* and my family for allowing me to be your Mayor for the last 8 years and 6 years as Trustee. It truly was a learning and rewarding experience which I will never forget.

Last, I want to congratulate the new Village Board on their election. I also want to thank the past Village Board for their accomplishments. It is amazing what can be done when we work as a team.

My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Stay safe and healthy.



*Greg Szymanski*  
Village President

## A PASSING OF THE TORCH



Village President Greg Szymanski ran for Village Trustee in 2007 and served two terms as the chairman of the Streets and Alleys Committee. He ran for Village President in 2013 and has served two terms. As Village President, he served on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Municipal League, on the Executive Board of the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, and as the President of the Will County Governmental League. One of Szymanski's greatest accomplishments was the purchase of the bank building at 625 Dixie Highway in 2014 and orchestrating the rehabilitation of this building and the relocation of the Beecher Village Hall from 724 Penfield Street at a total cost of \$415,000.

Scott Wehling served as Village Trustee since 1997; running for election six times over 24 years. He has served as Village President Pro-Tem since 1999, and has been the chairman of Public Buildings and Properties, Parks and Recreation Committee almost his entire tenure. One of Trustee Wehling's greatest accomplishments was receiving an \$800,000 grant from State's OSLAD Program, which allowed for the complete renovation of Firemen's Park in 2005. Still today residents enjoy the amenities in the park provided by the grant. Wehling is the Board's most senior Trustee. When his term ends, it will be the first time since 1949 that a Wehling has not been on the Beecher Village Board. Wehling's father and grandfather both served as Beecher Village President for a total of 32 years. The end of an era; 72 years of continuous service to the Village by the Wehling family.



Stacy Mazurek is also leaving the Village Board after serving one term. Mazurek was the liaison to the Beecher Youth Commission and the Planning and Zoning Commission and Chair of the Planning, Building and Zoning Committee.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR OUTGOING ELECTED OFFICIALS  
FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE BEECHER COMMUNITY!**



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT STATUS REPORTS

**GOULD STREET WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT** – the Village is waiting for permission from the State to rebid this project using a \$967,000 grant from the IL DCEO Infrastructure Fast Track grant program. Work will hopefully begin this summer and be completed by winter.

**GOULD AND PENFIELD STREET RECONSTRUCTION AND BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** – this project has been in the planning stages since 2016. Design is nearing completion and the project is expected to be bid out on November 3, 2021. Work will begin in the spring of 2022. Only that section of Gould Street between Indiana and Penfield will be completed since grant funds can only be used to connect state and county highways. Gould Street north of Penfield will have to be completed at a later time.

**IL ROUTE #1 (DIXIE HIGHWAY) RESURFACING** – This project is being conducted by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Iroquois Paving was the low bidder on this project at \$4.5 million and work is expected to begin sometime this early summer. Watch for signs along the highway which will provide a start date. Expect delays north and south of town for a few weeks during this project.

**FIRE STATION/PARK/COMMUNITY HALL PARKING LOT OFF PENFIELD STREET** – This lot will be resurfaced as a joint effort with the Beecher Fire Protection District, Community Hall Board, and the Village. This project will be completed sometime this spring.

**DIXIE HIGHWAY WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT** – this project includes installing cross-over pipes from the west side to the east side of Dixie Highway to provide access to the new mains on the east side. This will allow for the abandonment of the much older main on the west side where all of the breaks are occurring between Orchard and Chestnut Lane. Design is nearing completion and this project will be bid in conjunction with the Gould Street watermain. Work should begin later this summer.



### **RAILROAD QUIET ZONES ARE COMING!**

***(it is now a matter of “when” not “if”)***

Work is expected to resume on the needed improvements to implement a Quiet Zone for the railroad crossings at Eagle Lake Road, Church Road, Hodges Street, Penfield Street and Indiana Avenue the week of April 26th. Once these improvements are completed in mid-May, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) will be contacted for an inspection. Once the inspection is complete the FRA will issue a final determination and public notice of the Quiet Zone and a 30 day notice period begins. After that the Union Pacific Railroad will be asked to comply with the Quiet Zone permit.



In short, this is still going to take a while even after the improvements are installed. Please be patient as the Village works through the process. We will keep you updated on our website and Facebook platforms.

## THE COVID 19 VACCINE HAS FINALLY ARRIVED IN EASTERN WILL COUNTY!

***Register for Your Appointment Now!***

When this article was written, the Governor just announced that on or after April 12th all Illinois residents over the age of 16 are eligible for a vaccine and should not delay in getting their appointment. The Will County Health Department has opened a vaccine clinic for eastern Will County in Monee, and began vaccinations from this site back on March 30th. This site has eight vaccination stations and can do hundreds of vaccinations per day. This site is located at 6370 W. Emerald Parkway. Take Monee-Manhattan road over I-57 and turn south at the first crossroad just east of the Amazon Warehouse. The clinic is located in a small business park directly across from Amazon on the east side of the road.

Here is how it works. You have to register for the vaccine by calling 815-740-8977 Monday -Friday between 8AM and 4PM. You can also register anytime on the vaccination website at [www.willcountyhealth.gov](http://www.willcountyhealth.gov). When you register on the website, you will select an appointment date and time. You will then receive a ticket with a Code on it that you will need to show at your appointment time. Print it or have it on your phone. If you call in, they will give you a registration number that you will need to take with you to your vaccination appointment. Everything is tied with your number so it is very important to have it with you.

When you go for your vaccination, you will be standing in line for about 10 minutes so be prepared. Your temperature will be taken and you will be asked a series of questions pertaining to your health so they know you are fit and ready for your vaccine. The shot is given in the upper arm so you are advised to wear short sleeves. Once the vaccine is administered, you are asked to sit in a waiting area for 15 minutes to make sure you do not have a reaction. This rarely occurs so do not worry. During this waiting time, representatives are there to help you make your appointment for your second dose at the same location in about three weeks. Also, using this clinic does not require proof of insurance or a prescription card and does not cost you anything.

There are other options for getting the vaccine all over the South suburbs and Kankakee area so do what is most convenient for you. However, getting the vaccine is very important and the most significant way toward getting back to normal life.

<https://willcountyhealth.org/>

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Location**



**WEWILLWIN**



Will County  
Health Department &  
Community Health Center

## BEECHER FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION UPDATE

***There are plans for a festival this year, just not on the Fourth of July***



It's hard to believe that the Beecher Fourth of July Commission is now into the second year of planning for a festival and they do not know when or how a 2021 festival can occur. At its March meeting, the Commission approved a festival for 2021, consisting of fireworks, carnival and several of the traditional stands, which will be held **LATER IN THE SUMMER OR FALL**, and not on the July Fourth weekend. This decision was made since at that time it was unclear how quickly the vaccination process will occur and when the Governor will lift Phase 4 restrictions and allow for a return to normalcy. The chances for that occurring later in the Summer are much better than the first weekend of July. The Commission understands that this is unique and affects many people's schedules. However, their number one priority is the safety of their patrons and the volunteers which make the festival a reality. As of this printing there is no set date but one will be announced in late April. So stay tuned!



## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

*The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Fall of 2020:*

- ✓ Approved an extension of a contract with Class I Operator John Hernandez for the operation of the Beecher Wastewater Treatment Plant until April 30, 2026.
- ✓ Approved the extension of the historic downtown business district incentive program through 2023.
- ✓ Approved the extension of the moratorium on new residential housing building permit fees capped at \$1,500 until December 31, 2023. To date, 8 homes have been constructed under the fee moratorium.
- ✓ Accepted the resignation of Trustee Frank Basile who moved away and accepted the appointment of Ben Juzeszyn to fill the remainder of the term.
- ✓ By a vote of 3-2, approved the waiving of bidding requirements and approved a proposal from Preferred Window and Door in the amount of \$68,502.73 for the installation of touchless doors at the Village Hall and police station using CARES Act COVID Response Funds.
- ✓ Approved an agreement with WILCO, the regional fire radio system, for use of the water tower for a repeater and antenna.
- ✓ Approved the purchase of a 2020 Ford SUV for police patrol.
- ✓ Approved an application for \$250,000 in Illinois Transportation Enhancement Funds to complete all of the unimproved public sidewalks throughout the Village.
- ✓ Approved an agreement with Baxter and Woodman in the amount of \$25,000 to administer the \$967,000 grant from the State of Illinois to replace the watermains on Gould Street.
- ✓ Approved a five year collective bargaining agreement with UIOE Local #399 for Public Works employees.
- ✓ Learned that the Lincoln/394 Enterprise Zone which includes Beecher was extended for another 15 years.
- ✓ Approved tax levy for 2020 collectible in 2021 with an increase of 1.5% (\$9,243.54) to be allocated to the Police Department for more patrol hours.
- ✓ Accepted with gratitude a \$35,000 donation by Walt's Foods to be used to pay for public safety in the Village.
- ✓ Entered into an agreement with the Beecher Fire Protection District to pay for 1/3 of the resurfacing costs of the public parking lot between the Community Hall and the fire station.
- ✓ Approved an engineering agreement with Baxter and Woodman to design the replacement of the water mains along the west side of Dixie Highway by making connection to the new mains on the east side of the highway. This project will be bid in the Spring of 2022.
- ✓ Approved an agreement with Homewood Disposal to extend the refuse collection contract through June 30, 2028. The annual rate of increase of \$0.75 per month each year will remain in effect.

*Continued on next page*

*Board meeting highlights continued*

- ✓ Approved annual rate increases totaling \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons for water and \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons for sewer to pay for the increased operating cost of the systems. The prior annual rate increase per year was \$0.10 for each.
- ✓ Approved an additional \$1.00 per 1,000 gallons of water rate increase with the proceeds of this increase being deposited into the Watermain Replacement account to accelerate the replacing of aging watermain.
- ✓ Adopted a five year financial and capital improvements plan for fiscal years 2021 through 2025.
- ✓ Adopted an ordinance amending the truancy regulations of the Village in order to address issues relating to remote learning. The prior ordinance did not address remote learning requirements.
- ✓ Accepted a bid of \$2.20 for 46,000 gallons of unleaded fuel and \$2.53 for 36,000 gallons of diesel fuel which should provide all Beecher local governments with sufficient fuel at this price through March 1, 2022.

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Beecher Village Hall, 625 Dixie Highway. Residents are always invited to attend these meetings. Board meetings can also be viewed on YouTube. The link to the Village YouTube Channel can be found on the Village Website.



## **VILLAGE BOARD EXTENDS CONTRACT WITH HOMEWOOD/STAR DISPOSAL**

***Contract Extended through June, 2028  
with annual 75 cent monthly increase***

At its January meeting, the Beecher Village Board approved a five-year extension to an existing contract with Homewood/Star Disposal which was set to expire on June 30, 2023. This five-year extension locks in the rate charged for residential refuse collection for seven more years. Homewood Disposal receives a \$0.75 increase in their rate on July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year through the term of the contract, which is less than 4% per year. Landfill capacity is also allocated for Beecher during the term of the contract.



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of Commerce



## WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASES ON MAY WATER BILLING

### ***Increases needed to fund increasing operating costs & replace aging watermains***



When you receive your water bill in May, you will notice that you are paying more; at least \$10.40 more if you receive a minimum bill. For each 1,000 gallons used over the minimum, you will pay \$1.30 more per thousand. The Beecher Village Board does not take rate increases lightly; remember, Trustees have to pay these rate increases also. However, our water and sewer system is aging, and there is a profound need to replace aging pipes to guarantee continued water service throughout the Village.

First, let's try to explain the \$0.15 increase from \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons to \$0.25 per 1,000 gallons for both the water and sewer systems. These increases will provide about \$16,610 for each utility to pay for the increasing costs of electric power, chemicals such as chlorine and tri-polyphosphate, and labor. For example, the Village uses a chemical which significantly reduces rust in the water. If you have lived in town for a while, you will remember brown and orange water was a regular nuisance. This chemical keeps it in check; but is very expensive to use. So decisions have to be made regarding how much chemical to use and at what cost to provide clean water to our residents. Unfortunately, we all have to pay a little more.

Refuse collection is also on your utility bill and this goes up \$0.75 per month each July. The current refuse charge is \$38.00 for two months and this will increase to \$39.50 on July 1st.

The new total water rate which will be reflected in your May water bill will be \$6.15 per 1,000 gallons for water and \$4.45 per 1,000 gallons for sewer. The minimum bill at 8,000 gallons or less of water used will be \$62.20 for water and includes \$13.00 in flat charges for watermain replacement, debt service and administration fees. The sewer minimum bill will be \$35.60 and the sewer debt service charge of \$10.00 remains the same. There is also \$2.00 per billing fee for mosquito abatement which is used to buy chemicals and pay labor and equipment costs for the weekly adult sprays and surface water applications in the Summer.

Are you confused yet? Here is a recap without all of the jargon of what is included in your water/sewer/refuse bi-monthly bill beginning May 1st:

<b>WATER</b>	\$62.20 minimum bill for 8,000 gallons of water <i>(includes \$13.00 in flat charges)</i>  \$ 6.15 per 1,000 gallons after 8,000 gallons \$ 7.15 per 1,000 gallons after 30,000 gallons* <i>(*this is a high capacity user charge)</i>
<b>SEWER</b>	\$35.60 minimum bill for 8,000 gallons \$4.45 per 1,000 gallons over 8,000 gallons
<b>SEWER DEBT SERVICE</b>	\$10.00 Flat Fee
<b>REFUSE &amp; RECYCLING</b>	\$38.00 (Star Disposal Service)
<b>MOSQUITO ABATEMENT</b>	\$2.00
<b>*TOTAL MINIMUM BILL FOR NON-LIFT STATION CUSTOMERS: \$147.80*</b>	
<b>LIFT STATION SURCHARGE</b>	\$5.20 minimum bill for 8,000 gallons \$0.65 per 1,000 gallons over 8,000 gallons <i>(this fee applies to all customers served by a lift station which pumps to the sewer plant)</i>
<b>*TOTAL MINIMUM BILL FOR LIFT STATION CUSTOMERS: \$153.00*</b>	

If you have any questions regarding these rates and fees please contact the Village Hall. Also, if you believe your metered water usage is higher than normal you may have leak. Contact the Village Hall and we can help you go through some steps to verify your usage. A more detailed meter reading may also be required.

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF YOUR ELECTRONIC WASTE

### *Will County Provides Drop-off location in Peotone*

Do you have an old computer, TV or video gaming device you need to get rid of? As you are aware, these types of items are no longer permitted in landfills and have to be recycled. The Will County Solid Waste Division provides a collection site for these items at the Peotone Police Department, 208 E. Main Street in downtown Peotone. Collection dates are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month from 5pm to 7pm. There is no collection on holidays. You are limited to two items per household per collection. You will also have to have an ID showing that you are a Will County resident.

For more information on electronics recycling, household hazardous waste (HHW) disposal, and disposal of other difficult to dispose items; visit <http://www.willcountygreen.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/WillCountyGreen> for upcoming HHW events.



## VILLAGE WELCOMES NEW BUSINESSES IN 2020 AND 2021

Despite the pandemic and the difficult economic times we have all experienced, we are excited to report that several new businesses have opened in town in the last year and some others have changed hands or relocated. Here is a list of those businesses in alphabetical order:

**ALUMA SALON** purchased Canvas Hair Studio at 435 W. Indiana Avenue.

**BIEDZ AUTO SALES** opened an office at 642 Dixie Highway. Biedz trades in custom and high end vehicles.

**HOMETOWN CLEANERS AND LAUNDROMAT** opened for business at 642 Dixie Highway providing self-serve laundry.

**METROPOLITAN EYE CARE** relocated from 1140 Dixie Highway to 500 W. Indiana Avenue, Suite C in the Beecher Hardware building.

**OMEGA EQUIPMENT SALES** opened its new location in Beecher at 229 W. Indiana Avenue. They were previously located in Des Plaines. Omega specializes in the leasing of long haul trailers for independent drivers.

**PA-CHAN-GA Mexican Restaurant** is opening its second location at 436 Dixie Highway. Their original location is at 110 Meadowview Center in Kankakee. Pa-Chan-Ga offers authentic Mexican fare in a "let's party" atmosphere.

**SUBWAY** at 1121 Dixie Highway is re-opening under new ownership after a lengthy closure.

Welcome and congratulations to all our new and relocating businesses!







## NEW YARD WASTE BAG COLLECTION POLICY

***Refuse Company Will Only Sell Stickers; Any Paper Bag May be Used***



Because of past confusion regarding the exclusive use of Homewood/Star yard waste bags, residents will now be able to use any retail paper yard waste bags as long as they display a green Homewood/Star Disposal sticker. These stickers are sold at Beecher Hardware, Walt's Food Center and the Beecher Village Hall. If you still have some Homewood/Star Disposal yard waste bags on hand, you can continue to use them and they do not require a green sticker.

If you'd prefer to not use the paper bags or have a lot of yard waste each year, Homewood/Star Disposal also offers yard waste cart rental. The price of the cart has been reduced to \$160 per year for unlimited yard waste. Contact Homewood/Star Disposal directly for cart rental. Their website is <https://mydisposal.com/towns/beecher-garbage> and their phone number is **708-748-8381**. You will be billed directly from Homewood/Star Disposal for cart rental.

- ✓ Yard Waste Season is April 1st thru November 30th
- ✓ By Illinois state law, yard waste cannot be disposed of with regular garbage.
- ✓ Yard waste can be placed in brown paper yard waste bags or in yard waste carts.
- ✓ Yard waste cannot be placed inside plastic garbage bags.
- ✓ Yard waste bags and containers cannot exceed 50 pounds each and should be able to be reasonably lifted by one person.
- ✓ Yard waste will be picked up on regularly scheduled garbage days.

If you have any questions about the yard waste collection program, call the Village Hall.

## VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2021 brush collection program began on April 6th. **Brush pick-up will occur every Tuesday** and continue until the end of November. To ensure your brush is collected by the Village, you are asked to follow the rules below:

1. Brush bundles are to be placed out to the roadside by 6:30 a.m. on collection day. Brush put out the same day of pick-up is not guaranteed to be collected that week.
2. Grass clippings, leaves, stones or mulch mixed with brush **WILL NOT BE PICKED UP**. Grass clippings, leaves, thorns and mulch should be disposed of in yard waste bags. Absolutely NO root balls on bushes or shrubs, as this will damage the equipment.
3. Brush bundles should not exceed 4' wide x 4' tall x 6' long. There must be 2' between each pile if more than one bundle is to be picked up. Brush is to be stacked in bundles in a neat manner. If brush is not stacked in a neat manner, it will NOT be picked up. All cut ends are to face street in the same direction. All smaller brush piles shall be tied with twine or placed in cans for the crew to dump into chipper. The machine will be damaged if any other material is used other than twine.
4. Brush pick-up is intended for branches removed during routine trimming or due to storm damage. Entire trees that have been taken down by a resident or private contractor will **NOT** be picked up by the Village.

These rules are set in place to provide an efficient and cost effective brush collection program for Village residents. Any questions about this program should be directed to the Village Hall. Thank you for your cooperation!







## This spring is a great time to remodel.

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Angela Becker, PT, DPT  
Megan Russo, PTA

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Friday: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm

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

**Sanders** 30449 S. Dixie Hwy.  
**Services** Beecher, IL 60401  
**708-946-6624**

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## Village of Beecher

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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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[facebook.com/beecher.illinois](https://facebook.com/beecher.illinois)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Beecher Farmer's Market**

2nd and 4th Saturdays - May thru October  
625 Dixie Hwy (Village Hall parking lot)

### **Chamber of Commerce Car Cruise Nights**

1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings from June thru September  
(located on Dixie Highway south of the Village Hall)

### **Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days**

June 17, 18 & 19

*Important  
DATE!*