



# THE BEECHER BULLETIN

"Your Village Newsletter"

Fall 2021

## Inside this issue:

Board Meeting Highlights	5,6
Brush Collection	8
Chief of Police	4
Dog Tags on Sale	8
EMA	4
4th in the Fall Results	2
Halloween	1
Leaf Pick-up	8
Illiana Business Park	3
Penfield St Reconstruction	1
President's Corner	2
Water Drainage Protection	7
Winter Weather Parking	7
Volunteers Wanted	10

## Village of Beecher

### OFFICIALS

Marcy Meyer  
*President*

#### Trustees:

Jonathan Kypuros  
Todd Kraus  
Benjamin Juzeszyn  
Joseph Tieri  
Roger Stacey  
Joseph Gianotti

Janett Conner  
*Clerk/Office Mgr*

Donna Rooney  
*Treasurer*

Robert O. Barber  
*Administrator*

Terrence Lemming  
*Interim Chief of Police*

Matt Conner  
*Supt. of Public Works*

## PENFIELD STREET RECONSTRUCTION INCHING CLOSER TO REALITY

***What was designed in 2013 will finally happen in 2022***

This project has been on the drawing board for seven years now as the Village satisfies all of the federal and state requirements in order to obtain the \$4 million in Federal Surface Transportation funds necessary to complete the project. Bid opening is scheduled to occur on January 21<sup>st</sup> with construction beginning in March of 2022 when the Penfield Street bridge will be replaced. A new parking lot will also be installed on the vacant lot east of the post office.

Penfield will be closed between the grade school drive and Maxwell Street for several months. Following the replacement of the bridge, the south half of Penfield will be totally reconstructed from Reed Street east to Dixie Highway. The new parking lot will be for post office parking during that time and two-way traffic will be allowed in the "post office alley" during this period. The north half of Penfield will be for westbound traffic only (one way). When that portion of the road is complete, work will begin on the north half of the street and traffic will be allowed to go eastbound only (one way). The Village will also be working out the details of a traffic plan with the Fire and School Districts since this will drastically affect their operations.

Reconstruction of the road includes replacing all public sidewalks, curbing, decorative street lighting, new storm sewers and a reconfiguration from pull-in to parallel parking in several locations. The watermain was already replaced as a separate project in 2017. It will be a challenging year for all of us during construction, but the finished product will be worth the inconvenience and the wait.



## HALLOWEEN

**Trick-or-Treat hours:  
2-6 p.m. on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**



The Lions Club Annual Weenie Roast will begin in Firemen's Park at 5 p.m. on Halloween.

In addition to the Weenie Roast, the Lions Club will be hosting a pumpkin smash & hayride in Firemen's Park (675 Penfield Street) from 5-7 p.m.

**Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!**

## VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to Autumn! It's been an eventful summer with many changes in Beecher. I was sworn in as Village President the first week in May, and not only am I a new "mayor", but 3 out of 6 of our Village Board members are new to government. Joining our returning trustees, Jon Kypuros, Todd Kraus, and Ben Juzeszyn, are new Trustees Joe Gianotti, Roger Stacey and Joe Tieri. Together, we are navigating our new responsibilities to the community.

We are happy to welcome multiple volunteers who have stepped up to join our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Commission and Beecher Youth Commission. They are looking forward to bringing fresh ideas and energy to the commissions and are replacing several retiring members. We deeply thank all the retiring members of our commissions who have served the community for many years and loyally donated their time. This town is fortunate to have so many residents who show such tireless dedication to Beecher.

The 4<sup>th</sup> in the Fall Festival will be discussed later in this newsletter, but I just want to mention that with the help of our former and new commissioners, and some fantastic weather, we were able to make enough money to fund the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival next year. A special thanks to our entire community who showed up day after day to make sure the festival was a success.

This year, we have been fortunate to have been able to welcome some new businesses. We welcome Pa-Chan-Ga Mexican Restaurant to the community, and Buddys has reopened under the ownership of residents who had previously managed the business and have brought back all the local favorites. The bowling alley has been purchased and is currently being renovated. They plan to open soon.

Our new Village Board is working hard on implementing new ideas, and on bringing positive changes to the community. I can't wait to be able to report back next year. Have a great fall and winter!



**Marcy Meyer**  
*Village President*

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

<https://www.facebook.com/beecher.illinois/>

### **"FOURTH IN THE FALL 2021" WAS A HUGE SUCCESS**

***Despite the date change, the weather cooperated and the crowds came!***



There was some apprehension this year as the Commission planned for a 2021 Fourth of July Festival on Labor Day weekend. It sure did seem a little strange! Back in March when a decision had to be made about what to do for 2021, the thought process was that Labor Day would give an additional 60 days time for the pandemic to wane. Boy were we wrong! However, the community pulled it off and the weather was perfect almost the entire weekend. Although the Commission does not have final numbers yet, it appears that the festival is in the black and a commitment has been made to come back strong on the Fourth of July weekend in 2022. That is now only eight months away!

There are currently three full Commissioner positions open and several ex-officio positions. Please contact the Village Hall if you are interested in serving on the Commission.



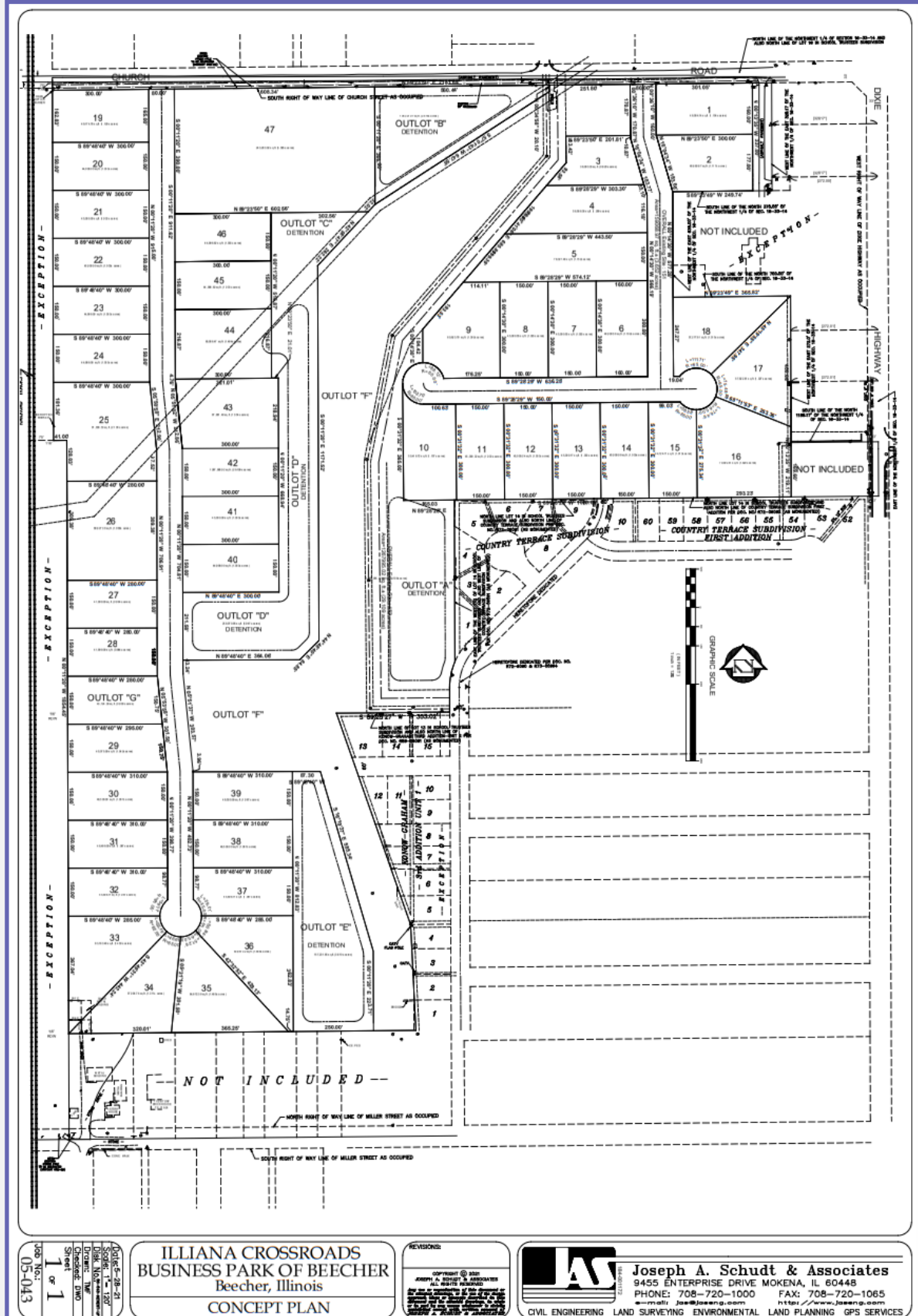
## ILLIANA CROSSROADS BUSINESS PARK PROPOSED

### *Concept is approved but more details require consideration*

On August 9<sup>th</sup> the Village Board approved an exploratory proposal (concept plan) for the Illiana Crossroads Business Park of Beecher submitted by Art VanBaren of Dutch American Foods. This proposed development is bounded by Church Road on the north, the Union Pacific railroad tracks to the west, Miller Street and Willow Lane to the south, and Catalpa Street and Dixie Highway to the east. This project still requires preliminary plan and final plat approvals.

The concept plan calls for approximately 51 one acre lots for smaller businesses. These lots, similar to the Trim Creek Business Park north of Church Road, can be purchased in bundles for larger buildings. The project will be marketed mainly for warehousing and light manufacturing which will all occur indoors. No outside storage will be allowed. Additionally, 49 acres will be reserved for detention of storm water and open space.

The Village is requiring a traffic and road condition study for Church Road to determine the impact of the proposed park and has also initiated a report on how local property values will be affected. Other covenants intended to reduce the impact of the proposed park to adjoining residential property are also under review. If the project is fully approved, the first phase will begin in the northwest corner of the property along the railroad tracks. Several businesses similar to Dutch American Foods have expressed an interest in the park.



## MEET THE VILLAGE'S INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

In August the Village welcomed Terry Lemming as its interim Chief of Police as the search process begins for a new full-time Chief of Police. Greg Smith retired as Chief from the department at the end of July. Terry comes to us from the City of Lockport where he has served as Chief since 2013 and retired in early August. Prior to that he served as a Lieutenant Colonel for the Illinois State Police where he served 25 years.

Chief Lemming was contracted through the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association as a "linebacker" to assist municipalities in managing their police departments in times of transition.



## Have you heard about the Beecher Emergency Management Agency?

The Beecher Emergency Management Agency or EMA is a group of volunteers who assist the Beecher Police Department, Beecher Fire Protection District and Beecher Department of Public Works in several ways. Our main duties include traffic control and crowd supervision. We are often seen directing traffic in case of accidents, water main breaks and special events. There have been occasions where we have assisted with searching for missing persons. We also have trained weather spotters who keep their eyes to the sky during severe weather. In the event of a natural disaster, we may participate in search and rescue of homes and other areas hit by severe weather. It's not always work for us though! We do enjoy a parade!

The EMA team has training in CPR/AED, Community Emergency Response Team Training, National Safety Council Flagger Training, and Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Incident Management Training. We continue to train several times a year to keep our certifications and knowledge current.

Some of our team members have backgrounds in the military, police, fire, and EMT/Paramedic careers.

The Beecher EMA team includes Bob Heim, Director, Deputy Directors Denis Tatgenhorst and Dale Murray. EMA officers include Joe Cackowski, Sherry Murray, Laura Voss, Shawn Giggey and Corey Cross.

You can follow Beecher EMA on Facebook at Village of Beecher Emergency Management Agency.



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

"WE WANT TO DRAIN YOUR OIL, NOT YOUR BANK ACCOUNT"  
APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR ALL SERVICES

**\$3.00 OFF** Any Purchase of \$20 or more,  
with this coupon, Before 3/31/2022

GraphicsBeecher.com Free Domain  
Name with one year Web Page Hosting  
up to \$20.00 off first year domain name with \$300 or more in website development and hosting

**IROQUOIS PAVING CORPORATION**

1889 E US HWY 24 WATSEKA IL 60970 • (815)432-5211

IROQPAVCORP.COM

WATSEKA GILMAN MONEE



## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since March of 2021.

- ✓ Approved a grant application in the amount of \$4.4 million to the Illinois EPA for the replacement of all the lead service lines in the Village. Awarded a contract for same to the lowest bidder: Brandt Excavating of Morris, Illinois.
- ✓ Approved a donation in the amount of \$15,000 from COVID CARES grant funds to the Beecher Fourth of July Commission to assist them in paying for the fireworks show this year.
- ✓ Declared two Dodge Charger police vehicles and 2 Humvees as surplus property.
- ✓ Approved the purchase of a used 2017 Ford Taurus police pursuit vehicle in the amount of \$19,000 using the proceeds from the sale of surplus property. At this time no new squads were available for sale.
- ✓ Approved a new 10 year agreement with Comcast Cable for use of rights of way.
- ✓ Extended an agreement with Carl Smits for the disposal of leaves at his composting site through 2028.
- ✓ Approved a five year agreement with UIOE Local #399 for the clerical workers.
- ✓ Approved a drainage easement agreement with Ron and Jamie Anderson for a swale through a field at 11 W. Church Road.
- ✓ Approved a budget and appropriation ordinance for FY 21/22.
- ✓ Adopted resolutions thanking former Village President Greg Szymanski (6 years as Trustee, 8 years as Village President,) for his service and Trustees Scott Wehling (24 years) and Stacy Mazurek (4 years) for their service.
- ✓ Authorized the purchase of splash pad equipment from Landscape Structures in the amount of \$87,380.80; the installation of electrical and water service to M+J Underground in the amount of \$19,851.70 and George's Landscaping in the amount of \$147,187.00 for the installation of the splash pad in Firemen's Park. The Board also learned that due to delays in work schedules and getting materials, the splash pad will not be opened until the Spring of 2022.
- ✓ Approved a variance for a fence in the front yard setback at 320 Mallards Cove.
- ✓ Approved a proposal from JMA Architects in the amount of \$8,000 to conduct a feasibility study for a new police station.
- ✓ Approved the lowest proposal from McGill Paving in the amount of \$88,315.44 for the 2021 resurfacing program which included portions of Fox Hound Trail, Church Road east of Cardinal Creek Boulevard and Park Drive.

*Continued on next page*

**BRIDGESTONE**  
**Firestone**

**GOODYEAR**  
**YOKOHAMA**

### BAHLMAN TIRE & SERVICE CENTER

548 S. Dixie Highway  
Beecher, IL 60401  
(708) 946-9770

Lance Saller

Doug Saller



**GARY HEDGER**

Email: [gary@ghcontractingservicesinc.com](mailto:gary@ghcontractingservicesinc.com)  
[www.ghcontractingservicesinc.com](http://www.ghcontractingservicesinc.com)  
Beecher, IL 60401

**CONTRACTING  
SERVICES, INC.**

**CONCRETE • EXCAVATION  
SNOW PLOWING**

Phone 708-946-9560  
Mobile 708-514-4523

*Board Meeting Highlights Continued*

- ✓ Authorized the power washing of the elevated tank on Gould Street For \$6,500; inspection of the above ground tank on Church Road for \$2,775; the purchase of a Spartan zero turn mower for \$11,000; installation of a generator at the Public Works garage for \$3,100; and the purchase of a golf cart for use at the sewer plant of \$2,500.
- ✓ Approved the appointment of Joe Gianotti as Trustee to fill the unexpired term of Marcy Meyer who was elected Village President.
- ✓ Authorized the purchase of a 2011 tandem axle International 7500 dump truck in the amount of \$58,000 for the Public Works Department. This will become the largest truck in the snow removal fleet.
- ✓ Approved a one year contract with Eligo Energy as the Village's power supplier through the residential aggregation program on the premise that the energy supplied would be 100% green.
- ✓ Approved an ordinance requiring all contractors performing work in the Village over \$100,000 prove compliance upon request of the Village with State and federal payroll tax laws.
- ✓ Approved an exploratory proposal for a business park located south of Church Road and east of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. This approval allows the petitioner to engineer the project and provide the necessary details for further consideration.
- ✓ Learned that a demolition order has been made for 648 Penfield Street. The Village is working with Fannie Mae, the new legal owner of the property, on the home's rehabilitation or demolition. Since it is a federal program several steps need to be taken before action can occur on the property.
- ✓ Approved the hiring of John Henson, Brandon Gereg, Anthony Gonsiorowski and Ronald Emery replacing employees who are no longer with the Public Works Department.
- ✓ Approved four year employment agreements with Robert Barber, Village Administrator, Janett Conner, Village Clerk/Office Manager, and Matt Conner, Superintendent of Public Works.
- ✓ Learned that Police Chief Greg Smith would retire at the end of his contract term on July 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Approved a six month agreement with Terry Lemming as interim Chief of Police as the process begins to find a new Chief.
- ✓ Learned that the railroad quiet zone went into effect on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Some trains will continue to sound their horns if the engineer believes a safety hazard exists.
- ✓ Referred a request for an appeal to the Village's building code requiring a fire suppression (sprinkler) system for 610 Gould Street.
- ✓ Approved an agreement with the State of Illinois for sharing sales tax information.
- ✓ Learned that the Village's official 2020 Census population is 4,713; 354 higher than the 2010 count of 4,359.
- ✓ Approved a temporary special use for a tent to be used to store golf carts at Cardinal Creek Golf course.
- ✓ Approved the appointments of Kristin Tucker, Codi Killis, Jessica Smith, Kelly Weissbohn, and Hebah Arroyo to the Beecher Youth Commission.

Board meetings can be viewed on the [Village's YouTube Channel](#) and are shared on the Village of Beecher Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/beecher.illinois/>.



## PLEASE KEEP GUTTERS AND STREET DRAINS CLEAR TO PREVENT FLOODING

As the leaves fall, protect your home from storm water flow by cleaning your house gutters and the street drains. It takes a surprisingly small event to cause serious damage when the storm drain is blocked. Leaves break down quickly when mowed or placed in a compost pile.

### **Don't let THIS.....turn into THIS**



**Storm drains** are the metal grates that are found on streets, often at corners and on the sides of curbs and gutters. The purpose of the **storm drain** is to help prevent flooding by diverting rainwater and melted snow off of the streets and other paved surfaces and into a natural body. To learn more or report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Beecher at 708-946-2261.

(Source: Clean Water Fact Sheet, produced by NEMO and Sea Grant Connecticut)

## BE THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!



**Storm drains connect to waterbodies! S S Remember: Only rain down the drain!**

To report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the *Village of Beecher* at 708-946-2261.

(Source: USEPA) [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater) or [www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps)

### Arnold's Tree Service, Inc.

Beecher, IL (Since 2002)

- Professional Service!
- Stump Grinding
- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal



Website:

[ArnoldsTreeServiceInc.com](http://ArnoldsTreeServiceInc.com)

eMail:

[info@arnoldstreeserviceinc.com](mailto:info@arnoldstreeserviceinc.com)

**Fully Insured**

**708-946-1305**



Member:

Beecher Chamber  
of Commerce



FRAN GUNTHER

708-946-9620 • Fax: 708-946-9621

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



### Beecher Sewer & Drain Experts

Sewer Rodding  
Drain Cleaning  
Sewer Repair

Sewer Inspection  
Sewer Hydro-Jetting  
Sewer Maintenance

**(708) 736-9236**

1762 S. Dixie Hwy, Crete, IL 60417 | [www.reid-pederson.com](http://www.reid-pederson.com)



**Steve Gibson**

[scgibson@generatorortec.com](mailto:scgibson@generatorortec.com)

**Generator  
Technologies, Inc.**

1249 E. Burville Rd; #5  
Crete, IL 60417-3601

708-672-6251

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





## BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER

Brush pick-up will continue every Tuesday through November, and begin again in April, 2022. Please remember to follow brush pick-up rules which can be found on the Village website to ensure your brush is collected. 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.

## DOG TAGS GO ON SALE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

Dog tags go on sale Wednesday, December 1st. The price is \$10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2022. After the March 15th deadline, the price of dog tags increase. **Tags may be purchased at the Village Hall or online by clicking on the "EPay" option on the Village website.** The dog's name, breed, color and date of last rabies vaccination will be required to purchase the tag. If you pay online, the tags will be mailed to you.

Dog tag fees are used to pay for the services provided by the Beecher Veterinary Clinic for picking up, feeding and boarding stray animals and lost pets.



## BE AWARE OF SNOW PARKING 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. Remember, the snow will end up back in your driveway anyway when the plow comes back by! The Police Department may issue tickets to those that deposit their snow onto the street.



## CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION



The cooler weather has arrived and leaf raking season is here again! Leaves raked in rows along the curbside are picked up by a large vacuum machine used by Public Works crews until the end of November (depending on the weather).

Residents should place leaves in a pile or row in the parkway, between the sidewalk and curb as near to the street as possible. Leaves should not be placed in the streets because it will clog storm drains when it rains, potentially causing flooding. In areas without curbs, leaves should be placed in long rows on the grass or parkway at the edge of the street. Do not mix leaves with branches or grass clippings. These things will damage the leaf machine.





**HAIL, WIND,  
OR STORM  
DAMAGE?**

**YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO A  
FREE ROOF!**

**ALL SAFE  
ROOFING**

**708-414-0008**

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

**Locally Owned**

CALL US FOR A  
**FREE INSPECTION**

Licensed • Bonded • Insured



## We do 401(k) Rollovers.

Contact Clint Squier or Luke Stortzum today at  
(708) 946-2246 for more details.



FIRST  
COMMUNITY  
INVESTMENT  
CENTER

1111 Dixie Highway • Beecher, IL 60401 • (708) 946-2246

Securities and insurance products are provided by Cetera Investment Services LLC, Member SIPC. Advisory services are provided by Cetera Investment Advisers. Investment products are: • Not FDIC insured • May lose value • Not bank guaranteed



## Is it time to remodel?

Home values are up and rates are still low.

Contact Nicole Squier about a HELOC at (708)  
946-2246. Visit us online at [www.firstcbt.bank](http://www.firstcbt.bank).



FIRST  
COMMUNITY  
BANK AND TRUST  
SINCE 1916

1111 Dixie Highway • Beecher, IL 60401 • (708) 946-2246



 An Equal Housing Lender



PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

## Village of Beecher

625 Dixie Highway / 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)  
E-Mail: [clerk@villageofbeecher.org](mailto:clerk@villageofbeecher.org)

**LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER  
BEECHER, IL 60401**

*Newsletter Editor: Janett Conner, Village Clerk*

## **VILLAGE COMMISSIONS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS**

Ever thought about volunteering? Giving back to the community? We are looking for people who want to make a difference doing something they enjoy and in the process make Beecher a better place to live.

**BEECHER YOUTH COMMISSION** - Do you love kids? Would you like help create memories for our youth and give them something constructive to do? The Youth Commission is for you! These dedicated volunteers are all about helping the kids in our community.

**BEECHER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION** - Are you a history buff?? Would you like to help preserve Beecher's 150+ years of history? The Historical Preservation Commission meets bi-monthly at the Depot on Gould Street. So many interesting things to learn about Beecher!

**BEECHER 4TH OF JULY COMMISSION** - Love festivals, fireworks, live music and carnivals? We have a volunteer opportunity for you! The commission meets throughout the year to plan all the many large and small details of the festival. This is an active and fun opportunity to become involved!

**BEECHER BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION** - Enjoy nature and planting flowers? Help keep Beecher beautiful by joining the Beatification Commission. The Commission plants flowers in areas of the local parks as well and puts together the beautiful flower boxes on the Miller and Penfield Street bridges. They also are in charge of the hanging baskets placed around the Village. Great for those with a green thumb!

The Village has some amazing people who volunteer for our commissions! Join these wonderful people in making Beecher a nicer place to live and make a few new friends in the process! Thank you to all of them!!!!

For more information about volunteering call the Village Hall at 708-946-2261.

**VOLUNTEER**



*All that's missing is **U**!*