

## THE BEECHER BULLETIN

"Your Village Newsletter"

Spring 2023

#### Inside this issue:

Board Meeting Highlights	
Brush Collection	9
Concert Series	3
EMA Corner/Severe Weather	3
Farmer's Market (Insert)	8
4th of July Festival	4
Penfield Project	1,2
"Project Pickle"	3
Thank You - Police Facility	1
Upcoming Events	10
Village President's Corner	2
Water/Sewer Rate Increase	5
Yard Waste	9

## Village of Beecher

### **OFFICIALS**

Marcy Meyer **President** 

#### Trustees:

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

Janett McCawley Clerk/Office Mgr

Donna Rooney *Treasurer* 

Robert O. Barber *Administrator* 

Terrence Lemming *Chief of Police* 

Matt Conner Supt. of Public Works

### PENFIELD STREET REHABILITATION PROJECT HAS BEGUN!

After 10 years of planning, engineering and permitting the dirt is ready to fly!

By the time this article appears, this project should be well underway. Two new parking areas; one at Maxwell and Penfield and one at Reed and Penfield, are under construction. The bridge replacement has been delayed due to a utility conflict with AT&T and ComEd, so the work schedule is being re-shuffled. There are still plans to complete the project by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The removal of the trees in the way of the project was very unfortunate but necessary. Some of the trees were hollow and others had root structures which were damaging the sidewalks. Many of these trees will be replaced as long as there is room to plant them.

The Fire Department will always be provided access to the road, and every effort will be made to provide access to either the grade school drive and the bus drive in the rear when school is in session.

Will there be inconveniences? You bet! It is going to be a rough summer for anyone using Penfield. But the end result is going to be a more aesthetically pleasing drive down one of the oldest and most important streets in Beecher that has been neglected long enough.

The project actually started in 2018 with the replacement of the 100 year old watermain down the middle of the westbound lane. That is why driving west on Penfield is like riding on a bucking horse. The pavement was only temporary – like 2 years temporary. Then the pandemic struck and things ground to a halt. But finally, the project is here. The lowest bidder was Iroquois Paving of Watseka, IL in the amount of \$5,430,401 with \$1,087,000 of this amount being paid by the Village and the remainder using federal funds. The project includes replacing all of the sidewalks and installing new walks in those locations that presently do not have sidewalks. Also, 22 decorative lamp posts will be installed. The road will be curbed and parallel parking will replace the angled parking along the route.

Go to Page 2 to see an overview of how Penfield Street will look once completed.

## THANK YOU BEECHER RESIDENTS, FOR SUPPORT OF NEW PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY REFERENDUM!

Members of the Village Board and the Beecher Police Department thanked the residents of the community for supporting the referendum at its meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup>. \$3,950,000 in general obligation bonds were sold to the People's National Bank of Kewanee, Illinois on

January 9<sup>th</sup>. Plans for the new facility went into full gear in December and a floor plan has been formally approved. Site engineering and bid specifications for the building are nearing completion and a decision will be made in the coming months when to officially go out to bid. In addition to the police station, there will be a large training room which will double as a community room to be used for public events and future Village meetings. This is a much needed project for our Police Department!

Thank you for your support!



Pictured L-R: Administrator Barber, Officer Drew, President Meyer, Chief Lemming & Officer Smycz

### VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER.

WELCOME TO CONSTRUCTION SEASON! As you'll read in this newsletter, the Penfield Street Reconstruction Project has begun. As with all major projects, there have been setbacks and they continue. The most recent plan change is due to utility company delays; however, the overall schedule remains the same. Yes, there will be traffic and parking inconveniences and unfortunately, these can't be avoided. Please call Village Hall or check our Facebook page for updates. Urgent messages will be sent via Nixle. Please sign up at nixle.com if you haven't already.



ARPA FUNDS... The Village received \$304,000 in ARPA Funds from the federal government and the Village Board made a unanimous decision to use this unexpected income to benefit the community by investing in projects and improvements that aren't budgeted. Some of these include: the information sign outside of Village Hall, a new footbridge over the creek between Firemen's Park and the elementary school, picnic tables and benches along the pathway and the splashpad, new lighting along the paths for night use, updated electric for the ballfields, new rubber mulch for the playground, and new playground equipment. We are also building basketball, pickleball and futsal courts next to the high school, as well as adding new playground equipment to Hunter's Chase Park and Prairie Park.

THANK YOU TRUSTEE KYPUROS... I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Trustee Jon Kypuros who has chosen not to run for reelection. Trustee Kypuros has stated in the past that public service is a sprint rather than a marathon, so, after 12 years as a Trustee, he is stepping down from the Board. Trustee Kypuros has a reputation as a bit of a disruptor; constantly looking into past practices and uprooting old processes that no longer work or aren't sustainable for our future. He has been a source of great change and new ideas for the betterment of this town. For ten years, he served as Chair of Public Works and focused improvements to that department. For the past two years, he has been the Chair of Finance and just one of his ideas was the concept of the Capital Equipment Sinking Fund to finance major equipment. We no longer need to panic when a dump truck or a squad car needs replacement. The CESFA funds are a means for us to pay cash for large equipment, and then pay ourselves back with interest (instead of paying a bank). As payments are made, we are building money in the account for the next piece of major equipment. Each piece of equipment has a projected life span, so we always have a rotation of useful equipment and a means with which to replace them. Trustee Kypuros has always acted in the best interests of the long-term future of this town. We appreciate all he has brought to the Village and wish him the best of luck. I'm pretty sure he will be easy to find. There will be noise and dust in the air and small explosions....

Last of all, please pay attention to detour messages in town this summer and drive safely!

Marcy Meyer
Village President





## WHAT IS "PROJECT PICKLE"?

## Village Partners with School District to Provide Recreational Opportunities

In November, 2022 the Village Board decided to allocate over \$300,000 in ARPA funds granted by the federal government to improve parks and recreation in the Village of Beecher. \$115,000 of this amount was set aside to provide an outdoor space for pickleball, basketball and futsal. The Village approached the School District and pitched the idea of turning the old tennis courts into this new outdoor play area. Hence "project pickle" was coined. This fenced-in area will be available to all residents and will be lit until about 10:00 pm during the summer months. Six

parking spaces will be provided next to the entrance gate in the high school parking lot. We hope to have this new outdoor feature open right after the 4th of July. Stay tuned for further updates on "project pickle"!

\$200,000 is being spent to improve Firemen's Park by adding more pathway lighting, benches, picnic areas and a larger playground. The footbridge behind the elementary school has been totally reconstructed. Many of these improvements are currently underway.

Another \$100,000 is being spent in Welton Stedt Park south of the junior high as two ballfields are being re-purposed as a full regulation soccer field. This work should be completed by fall.



## VILLAGE OF BEECHER 2023 CONCERT SERIES IN THE PARK

## **PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR 2023**

(details subject to change)

		9403
June 3 (Saturday)	6-9 pm	Iron Horse
June 18 (Sunday)	1-4 pm	Shout Section Big Band
July 1 (Saturday)	8-11 pm	Infinity
August 12 (Saturday)	3-6 pm	The E-Z Tones Polka
August 26 (Saturday)	7-9 pm	Big Dog Mercer Band
September 2 (Saturday)	6-9 pm	Maggie Speaks

Celebrate summer with your favorite bands....or discover a new one! The Beecher Concert Series features a diverse lineup of popular acts from the region. Bring a blanket and chairs and come down to Firemen's Park and enjoy the music. We can't wait to see you for a relaxing evening in the park!

A big thank you to Washington Township for their generous donation towards the concert series, allowing us to bring you even bigger and better bands this year!

#### **BEECHER EMA CORNER**

Severe weather season is upon us with the arrival of spring and it's a good time to start preparing for severe weather emergencies. Tornado season runs April through August, but severe weather can happen any time of year. Have a plan for indoor and outdoor situations where you may need to take shelter. Have a plan to keep in touch with family if you are separated. Tornado warning sirens will be activated if necessary. The sirens are for warning people outdoors to seek shelter and not intended to warn people indoors. Have multiple resources to receive warnings indoors such as a NOAA Weather Radio or apps on your phone. The Beecher EMA Team members are National Weather Service Trained Weather

Spotters. They will be out when needed to monitor severe weather and alert the public in case of emergency.



- ► A Tornado Watch means conditions are favorable for tornado development.
- A Tornado Warning means a tornado has been confirmed by radar or a trained spotter and you need to take cover immediately.
- ► Remember to stay weather aware and have a plan to stay safe.

## ANOTHER 4TH OF JULY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

## Beecher 4th of July Festival June 30 - July 4 in Firemen's Park

The Beecher 4th of July Commission is preparing for another great summer festival of fun! This year more parking will be made available in the park off Miller Street to accommodate the loss of on-street parking and access from Penfield. The parade theme for this year is "From Sea to Shining Sea" and will start at 4 pm on Tuesday, July 4th. The route this year may be subject to change due to the Penfield reconstruction project and we will keep you informed on NIXLE and our social media platforms as we get into late June. Listed below is the tentative schedule of events:

## FRIDAY, JUNE 30TH, 6 PM - MIDNIGHT

5:30 pm - Line up for Kid and Pet Parade @ Zion

5:45 pm - Parade begins

(must be in K-8th grade to be eligible for a prize)

6-10 pm - \$28 wrist bands

6-10 pm - Bingo and festival market

7-11 pm - "South Side Social Club" on main stage

## SATURDAY, JULY 1ST, 2PM TO MIDNIGHT

2-6 pm - Prairie 4H Expo in sunken garden

1 pm - Bean bag tournament registration begins

2-6 pm - Bean Bag tournament in the beer garden

2-4 pm - Free face painting

2 pm - Beer stand open

2-7 pm - \$28 Wristbands

2-10 pm - Festival market

4-10 pm - Bingo

7-11:30 pm - \$28 Wristbands

8-11 pm - "Infinity" on main stage

## SUNDAY, JULY 2ND, 2PM TO MIDNIGHT

2-6 pm - Prairie 4H Expo in sunken garden

2-4 pm - Face painting

2-7 pm - \$28 Wristbands

7-11 pm - \$28 wristbands

2-10 pm - Festival market

3 pm - Chamber of Commerce Pork Chop Dinner *(until they run out)* 

4-10 pm - Bingo

4-7 pm - "Not Yet" on main stage

8-11 pm - "Buckle" on main stage



## Win this 2022 Ford Escape!



Car Drawing July 4th at 11 pm



## MONDAY, JULY 3RD, 6PM TO MIDNIGHT

6-10 pm -\$28 Wristbands

6-10 pm - Bingo and festival market open

7-11 pm - "Rear View" Pearl Jam Tribute Band on main stage

### TUESDAY, JULY 4TH, 2PM TO 11PM

8 am - 5K Run/Walk

2-6 pm - \$28 wristbands (Ticket sales only after 6 pm)

2-11 pm - Festival market

2 pm - Food, pop, water and raffle sales begin

2:30 pm - Parade line-up @ Princess Café parking lot

4 pm - Parade

5 pm - Beer stand open

6pm until Fireworks - Bingo

7-11 pm - "Juke Box Heroes" on main stage

9:30 pm - FIREWORKS

11 pm - Car raffle







## ANNUAL WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASES ON MAY, 2023 WATER BILL (BILLED ONCE EVERY TWO MONTHS)

WATER



\$66.20 minimum bill for 8,000 gallons of water \$6.65 per 1,000 gallons after 8,000 gallons \$7.65 per 1,000 gallons after 30,000 gallons\* (\*high capacity user charge)

**SEWER** \$39.60 minimum bill for 8,000 gallons

\$4.95 per 1,000 gallons over 8,000 gallons

**SEWER DEBT SERVICE** \$10.00 Flat Fee

**REFUSE & RECYCLING** \$41.00 (Star Disposal Service)

**MOSQUITO ABATEMENT** \$2.00

\*TOTAL MINIMUM BILL FOR NON-LIFT STATION CUSTOMERS: \$158.80\*

**LIFT STATION SURCHARGE** \$5.52 minimum bill for 8,000 gallons

\$0.69 per 1,000 gallons over 8,000 gallons (applies to all customers served by a lift station which pumps to the sewer plant)

\*TOTAL MINIMUM BILL FOR LIFT STATION CUSTOMERS: \$164.32\*

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.



## **VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the fall of 2022:

- ✓ Appointed Jonathan Kypuros to Tax Increment Financing Joint Review Board as the resident at large and Village President Marcy Meyer as the Village representative.
- ✓ Approved a financing plan for the Village's 20% local match (\$1,200,000) of the \$5,800,000 Penfield Street Reconstruction Project which included the use of \$550,000 in cash reserves and \$650,000 from a ten-year loan.
- ✓ Approved \$121,000 in street patching and resurfacing projects which were completed in the fall of 2022.
- ✓ Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the school district for the installation of an underground fiber optic cable in various Village rights of way linking the high school and the junior high.
- ✓ Approved a motion to set the opening day of the splash pad in Firemen's Park to every third Monday in May and closing it the last Monday in September.
- ✓ Approved a bid from Davis Concrete for 2022 curb and sidewalk replacement program for \$35,000.
- ✓ Sold the vacant lot at 652 Penfield for \$10,000.
- ✓ Approved a 2 story garage at 11 E. Church Road.
- ✓ Approved a settlement agreement with ComEd for the proper payment of utility taxes and accepted \$5,600 in payment.
- ✓ Approved an updated job classification manual for positions in the Village.
- ✓ Authorized the trade-in of the 2016 Boomer 41 and \$24,000 for the purchase of a 2022 Boomer 50 tractor for Firemen's Park.
- ✓ Approved the use of a new portable radio system by EMA for \$5,000.
- ✓ Approved \$9,000 to Baxter and Woodman for the completion of a wellhead source protection plan as required by the IEPA.
- ✓ Adopted a resolution committing \$304,000 in ARPA funds to be used to improve parks and recreation opportunities in the Village of Beecher. All approved projects are scheduled to be completed by December 30, 2023.
- ✓ Approved a proposal from Piggush Engineering to complete the site plan for the new police station in the amount of \$35,680.
- ✓ Approved an ordinance establishing a new police commission for the recruiting and selection of new police officers. Tom Johnson and Todd Kraus were then appointed to the Commission.

Continued on next page



"board meeting highlights continued"

- ✓ Approved a three year contract with Pyrotechnico (formerly Melrose Pyrotechnics) for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks display. The cost of the display is covered by the Beecher 4th of July Commission.
- ✓ Approved a five-year financial plan for the Village and ordered it placed on the Village's website for the public to view.
- ✓ Approved an ordinance authorizing the sale of \$3,950,000 in General Obligation bonds to the People's National Bank of Kewanee for 20 years at an interest rate of 5.14%.
- ✓ Approved the following items for Firemen's Park: \$27,500 to Sun Ray Heating for new HVAC in the food stand, \$21,500 to replace the footbridge behind the elementary school, \$8,781.95 to add picnic tables and benches along the pathway and the splashpad, \$69,059 to light up the pathway for night use, \$8,376.24 to install new breaker boxes for the ballfield and scoreboard lighting, \$7,901 for new rubber mulch for the playground, and \$17,000 for new playground equipment in the park. Total cost of improvements in Firemen's Park: \$160,118.19.
- ✓ Approved an intergovernmental agreement with the school district for the conversion of the old tennis courts into an outdoor activity area including pickleball, basketball and futsal. Authorized \$41,000 to repave the tennis courts and \$68,205 for the installation of the courts.
- ✓ Approved a proposal in the amount of \$15,346.33 from Imagine Nation, LLC to replace playground equipment in Hunter's Chase Park and Prairie Park.
- ✓ Authorized the purchase of a 2021 Ford Explorer in the amount of \$25,000 to replace the 2011 Chevy Traverse being used as the Police Chief's car.
- ✓ Learned that the lead service line replacement program was successfully completed with only one resident refusing to have his line replaced. The project was funded by an IEPA pilot program grant in the amount of \$1,443,849. The Village has been certified as being lead-free.
- ✓ Learned that Will County intends to pave Indiana Avenue from Dixie to Route 50 in Peotone in the summer of 2023.
- ✓ Authorized by resolution the payment of bills at each Village Board meeting in lieu of once per month to avoid interest charges and late penalties.
- ✓ Directed staff to purchase certificates of deposit from various sources through a program offered by First Community Bank and Trust ranging from 3.75% to 4.0% for all Village funds having a shelf life greater than six months including the G.O. Bonds for the police station. This investment strategy will provide for the investment of \$4.8 million in FDIC insured securities generating earned interest of \$180,000 over the coming 12 months.

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.









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#### YARD WASTE BAG COLLECTION

- ♦ Yard waste Season is April 1st thru November 30th
- ♦ Place yard waste in brown paper yard waste bags with a Star Disposal Sticker 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.

Residents may use <u>any retail paper yard waste bags</u> as long as they display a green Homewood/Star Disposal sticker. The Village no longer sells bags. The green 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 is \$180 per year for unlimited yard waste. Contact Homewood/Star Disposal directly for cart rental. Their website is <a href="https://mydisposal.com/">https://mydisposal.com/</a> and their phone number is 708-748-8381. You will be billed directly from Homewood/Star Disposal for cart rental.

#### VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2023 brush collection program has begun. Weekly brush collection will occur every Tuesday (weather permitting) and continue until the last Tuesday in September. To ensure your brush is collected, 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 <u>WILL NOT BE PICKED UP</u>. 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.
- 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 <u>NOT</u> 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. For more details visit <a href="https://www.villageofbeecher.org/residents/brush-collection-rules/">https://www.villageofbeecher.org/residents/brush-collection-rules/</a>

Thank you for your cooperation!





Beecher, IL 60401 (708) 946-9770

Lance Saller

Doug Saller





## Village of Beecher

625 Dixle 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 E-Mail: clerk@villageofbeecher.org PRSRT STD ECRWSS

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Newsletter Editor: Janett McCawley, Village Clerk



## STAY CONNECTED!

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https://www.instagram.com/beechervillage/



### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Beecher Fire Dept - Fire & Fall Prevention for Older Adults** 

April 25 - 9:30 a.m. Washington Township Center

Beecher Farmer's Market 2nd and 4th Saturdays - May thru October 625 Dixie Hwy (Village Hall parking lot)

> Concert Series in Firemen's Park (See details on page 3)

Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days June 2-3

(beecherchamber.org)

4th of July Festival

June 30-July 4 (see details on page 4)

National Night Out August 1st

