

THE BEECHER BULLETIN

"Your Village Newsletter"

Spring 2025

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Village of Beecher

OFFICIALS

Marcy Meyer **President**

Trustees:

Todd Kraus Joseph Tieri Roger Stacey Erik Gardner David Weissbohn Brian Diachenko

Janett McCawley Clerk/Office Mgr

Donna Lippelt Treasurer

Charity Mitchell *Administrator*

Terrence Lemming *Chief of Police*

Matt Conner
Supt of Public Works

Adam Held

Asst Supt of Public Works



NEW BEECHER PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY TO BE OPEN SOON

The new Public Safety Facility will be completed in May. The building is a state-of-the-art law enforcement facility designed to meet the needs of the Village as it expands, for years to come. There will no longer be a need to cram 2 officers into a tiny office in a building not compatible for police use.

The new building is located at 250 West Church Road. There will be plenty of space for officers to work efficiently. There are now separate offices for patrol, investigation, supervisors and staff which we didn't have in the building on Penfield. There are also two overhead garage doors with plenty of space inside.

Our police officers and staff are elated to have such a modern new facility. Most police departments are struggling to retain officers. The new police building has raised morale, and we have remained at full staff since the new building was first discussed almost three years ago.

One of the things the Village is most proud of is the community room on the east side of the building. This room was designed to allow community groups such as Beecher Lions Club, Beecher Rec, Beecher Chamber of Commerce, homeowner associations, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and any Village not-for-profit group to use for their meetings. A schedule will be maintained at the PD front desk and community groups can call the non-emergency police number at 708-946-6388, to reserve the room.

Many people encounter police in a stressful situation. We want to welcome residents to come to our new PD for good reasons. We look forward to serving you more efficiently in the future.

VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2025 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, please visit our website for brush collection rules:

villageofbeecher.org/residents/brush-collection-rules/

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings! The big news this Spring will be the opening of the new Public Safety Facility on Church Road. Depending on when the asphalt company is able to pave the parking area, we are hoping to hold a grand opening ceremony sometime in May or early June after the police have moved and settled in. The building is all but complete, except for some final, finishing touches. The process of changing utilities over and making the move will be ongoing over the next month or so



The Community Room at the new Police Department will be available to local non-profit organizations for meetings at no charge. This can be scheduled through the Police Department.

Once the move to the new building is complete, the Village will be listing the old building on Penfield for sale.

The summer concert series is being planned and will continue this year with four concert dates. More information is listed later in this newsletter.

We are working with the Beecher Chamber of Commerce to hang summer banners on Penfield and Gould Streets, on the poles that housed the Christmas banners last year.

In business news, Union Electronics has been issued a Certificate of Occupancy so they will be moving into their new building on Church Road.

Lennar Builders has purchased 43 lots from Phillippe Construction and plan to build new homes in Hunter's Chase East.

For timely updates don't forget to follow the official "Village of Beecher, IL" Facebook page.

Marcy Meyer
Village President

Enjoy your summer and stay safe!

EPAY CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FEES CHANGE

Beginning April 28th, the Village will begin passing on credit card user fees to anyone who pays by credit card. Credit card transactions will be subject to a 2.3% or \$1 minimum processing fee.

E-Checks will be .50 each. The Village used to absorb these fees but it has become too costly with the large increase in credit card usage. The Village still offers Auto Debit for water bill payments. Contact the

Village Hall for more info. To avoid paying the processing fee, we always accept cash or check.



PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR 2025

VILLAGE OF BEECHER 2025 FIREMEN'S PARK CONCERT SERIES

June 7 6-9 pm Southtown Soul and Groove
July 3 8-11 pm All American Throwbacks
August 16 6-9 pm One of These Nights

September 6 6-9 pm The JukeBox Heroes Band

(details subject to change)

Celebrate summer with your favorite bands! 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! Food and drink will be available for purchase at all concerts.



Thank you to Washington Township for their generous donation towards the concert series, allowing us to bring you even bigger and better bands!

4TH OF JULY WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!

2025 Beecher 4th of July Festival July 2 - July 5 in Firemen's Park

(schedule subject to change)



WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND - 6 PM TO MIDNIGHT

5:45 pm - Kid and Pet Parade Kick-off

from Peace Lutheran Church (Line-up 5:30 pm)

6-10 pm - \$30 Wrist Bands

6-10 pm - Bingo and Festival Market

8-11 pm - Rocky Road Band

THURSDAY, JULY 3RD - 6 PM TO MIDNIGHT

6-10 pm - \$30 Wristbands

6-10 pm - Bingo and Festival Market 8-11 pm - All American Throwbacks

(Sponsored by Village of Beecher)

FRIDAY, JULY 4TH - 2 PM TO MIDNIGHT

8 am - Lions Club 5K Run/Walk

1-6 pm - \$30 Wristbands

2-11 pm - Festival Market

2 pm - Food and Car Raffle Stands Open

2:30 - 3:30 pm - Parade Registration and Line-up

4 pm - Parade

5 pm - Beer Stand Opens

6 pm - Bingo (until fireworks)

7-11 pm - Wristbands

7-11 pm - Ryan Craig Band

9:30 pm - Fireworks



SATURDAY, JULY 5TH - 2PM TO MIDNIGHT

2-6 pm - Prairie 4H Expo in Sunken Garden

2-4 pm - Free Face Painting

2-6 pm - Bean Bag Tournament in Beer Garden

(1 pm - Registration)

1 pm - Beer Stand Opens

2-6 pm - \$30 Wristbands

2-10 pm - Festival Market

4-10 pm - Bingo

4 pm - Chamber of Commerce Pork Chop Dinner

(until sold out)

6-10 pm - \$30 Wristbands 8-11 pm - Side Streets Band

11 pm - Car Raffle





THE CREATIVE EDGE

606 GOULD ST, BEECHER, IL





Purchase 1 Adult Studio Fee \$5 00, Receive 1 Child Studio Fee FREE!

Expires 5/31/25

SUMMER HOURS:

TUES 12-6 WEDNESDAY 11-8 **THURS 11-8** FRIDAY 11-9 SATURDAY 10-5

* ALLOW 1 HOUR TO PAINT . WE CLOSE EARLY IF NO PAINTERS

A PAINT YOUR OWN PROJECT STUDIO



WALK-INS WELCOME

BIRTHDAY PARTIES

PRIVATE EVENTS

POTTERY TO GO

GROUP PAINT NIGHTS



@CREATIVEEDGEBEECHER





POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT



The Beecher Police Department wants every resident to know why we do certain things. Our officers serve approximately 4,687 residents and see approximately 9,200 vehicles traveling through our Village every day.

Chief Terry Lemming

Studies show that an aggressive traffic stop program is a very effective crime prevention program. In January of 2022, we instituted a new traffic stop initiative to increase traffic enforcement and thus increase visibility and safety in our community. We recently looked at several statistics to see if our initiative is working, and the numbers don't lie.

From January 2019 to January 2022, Beecher Police received 49 reports of burglaries in our jurisdiction. This includes burglaries to businesses, residences and vehicles. After instituting our traffic stop initiative, from January 2022 to January 2025, Beecher Police received ONLY 5 of these reports. This is an almost 90% reduction in these crimes.

Although we have an aggressive traffic enforcement program, our officers are sympathetic to those who commit minor traffic violations. Are traffic stops inconvenient for the driver/passengers? Absolutely! But we believe this is worth the cost to keep our town safe, and we hope that you agree.

In the past three years, we have seen a major increase in traffic related arrests which have led to the recovery of illegal firearms, fentanyl, crystal methamphetamine, and other drugs, counterfeit currency, stolen property, and other criminal activity coming to or through our community every day. For example, in January of 2023, a "routine" traffic stop led to the arrest of a catalytic converter thief (who we believe was in town to commit further thefts) and the recovery of several stolen catalytic converters.

We take community policing seriously, and in the month of February alone, our officers performed over 289 residential/neighborhood extra patrols and over 188 business checks. In the last week of February, we solved a string of retail thefts, securing two arrest warrants, executed a residential search warrant related to a violent crime, and successfully convicted an offender who shot a Beecher resident in January of 2023.



We are incredibly proud of the hard work our officers do for the residents of Beecher, and we hope this helps you understand why we do what we do.

WHAT DOES CODE ENFORCEMENT DO?

The Beecher Code Enforcement Department is responsible for maintaining a quality of standards on behalf of residents. Some of the common violations the Code Enforcement Officer looks for are:



- ✓ Tall grass/weeds that exceed eight (8) inches
- Vehicles on parkways or obstructing sidewalks
- ✓ Boats, campers, motor homes or trailers on street or driveway/front yard more than 3 consecutive days in a 30-day period
- Trash receptacles or other trash out before 3 p.m. the day before scheduled pickup or out on the street or parkway 24 hours after pickup
- Above ground structures such as basketball hoops on street or parkways
- Contractors working without license/building permit

As always, if there is something you feel is a problem, please contact Code Enforcement at 708-231-2014 or email to dharrison@villageofbeecher.org.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our Village a great place to live. Code Enforcement as well zoning compliance articles can be found on the Village website.

David Harrison Code Enforcement Officer

NOTICE: Vehicles blocking sidewalks have become a problem in the Village. It's a safety hazard, especially for elderly and disabled people and children. Beginning June 1st, violators will be issued a \$25 ticket.

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ADAM HELD

New Assistant Superintendent Adam Held joined the Beecher Public Works Department in July of 2024. Adam was raised in Dyer, Indiana where he currently resides with his ten-year old son, Easton. He graduated from Lake Central High School in 1999 and began working for a Public Works Department in 1999 as summer help. He worked his way up to full-time status in 2001 and was then assigned to the Parks Department. He was later assigned to the Water & Sewer Division where he continued to progress through the ranks until he found the opportunity for a supervisory position with the Beecher Public Works Department.

When not at work, Adam can be found at the local ice rink, where he has been an avid part of the youth hockey coaching staff for many years. His love for the game, and for helping the youth succeed is a true passion for him. He stated, "Being

able to watch the kids grow individually and as a team is particularly fun as the excitement can be seen through them." Adam and his son also participate in Tae Kwon Do Martial Arts, his son Easton is currently ranked 2nd in the State of Indiana for Combat Sparring.

Adam's knowledge of local government and the inner workings of a Public Works Department is truly an asset to the Village of Beecher and our residents. Adam is based out at the Public Works Shop and is handling all day-to-day operations including scheduling of in-house projects, daily tasks throughout town, and after-hour callouts for service including watermain breaks, snow plowing, and storm clean-up efforts.





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 the year. Having a plan for indoor/outdoor situations where you may need to take shelter is very important. If you find yourself in a dangerous situation...

Indoors: Go to the lowest floor and put as many walls between you and the outdoors as possible.

If you have a basement, go under the stairs.

Outdoors: Find a sturdy shelter. As a last resort, lie flat in a ditch or low spot.

✓ Don't try to outrun a tornado especially in an urban area. Tornadoes can move faster than 60 mph.

- A bridge/overpass does not offer protection from damaging winds or a tornado.
- ✓ Be aware of falling debris, even if you are far from a tornado.

The Beecher EMA team members are trained National Weather Service Weather Spotters. We will be out when needed to monitor severe weather and to alert the public in case of an emergency. We want to remind you of the difference between a *Watch* and a *Warning*:



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A POLICE OFFICER??

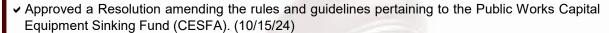
Beecher PD is looking for Beecher area residents who work full-time and would consider working as a Part-Time Police Officer. The pay is \$26 an hour and your uniforms and training are paid for. Much of the training is done online with some weekend in-person training. After the training you will be a certified Police Officer. Many of the open shifts for part time Police Officers are evenings and weekends.

If you are interested, the first step is to email Chief Lemming at tlemming@villageofbeecher.org to schedule a ride along with a Beecher police officer to see if this is a good fit for you.

We will be opening our new police station in May and it would be a great time to join us.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the fall of 2024:





- ✓ Approved purchase of 2025 Ford F150 from Terry's Ford with lighting and equipment for the Public Works Department in an amount not to exceed \$54,000. (10/15/24)
- ✓ Awarded annual asphalt patching work to the lowest bidder, Wirkus Paving in the amount of \$8,606. (10/15/24)
- → Authorized the purchase of a 2023 Imperial 83x22 18K trailer from Morris Trailer Sales in the amount of \$14,748.

 (10/15/24)
- ✓ Declared a 2009 John Deere lawn mower and a 2010 Toro lawn mower as surplus property and set minimum bids. (10/15/24)
- ✓ Declared a 1994 ODB Leaf Machine as surplus property and set a minimum bid. (10/15/24)
- ✓ Approved an ordinance that amended the time of the regular meetings of the Village Board of Trustees to 6:00 p.m. (instead of 7:00 p.m.) effective December 2024. (10/28/24)
- ✓ Approved the FY2023/24 Financial Audit as submitted. (10/28/24)
- ✓ Approved a third amendment of the Professional Service Agreement with SAFEbuilt Illinois in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, to provide assistance with the adoption of and transition to new building codes. (10/28/24)
- → Approved a Collection Services Agreement with Municipal Collections of America for collections services. (10/28/24)
- ✓ Declared a 2012 Cub Cadet lawn tractor as surplus property and donated it to Beecher Rec to help maintain the newly renovated fields at Welton Stedt Park. (10/28/24)
- ✓ Approved a small project agreement with Definitive Resources Inc. in the amount of \$129,545.13 for a surveillance system at the new Public Safety Facility. (11/12/24)
- ✓ Approved an ordinance granting a special use permit for 759 W. Indiana Avenue for a Tobacco Store and Vape Shop in a B-1 Historic District. (11/12/24)
- ✓ Approved a tax levy for 2024 collectible in 2025. (11/25/24)
- ✓ Approved a Local Public Agency Resolution of Intent Authorizing the use of MFT funds to repay the loan for the Penfield Street Improvement project in the amount \$793,786.80. (\$650,000 was approved on 12/8/23.) The amount approved at this meeting includes \$650,000 plus interest in the amount of \$143,786.80. (11/25/24)
- ✓ Authorized the Chief of Police to sign an MOU with Steger, Crete, and Monee Police Departments for the coordination of Cellebrite Equitable Sharing. (11/25/24)
- ✓ Authorized an agreement with Groskreutz, Abraham, Eshleman, & Gerretse LLC to audit the financial statements of the Village of Beecher for the next 3 years in the total amount of \$75,700. The estimated fees proposed are \$24,000 for FY25, \$25,200 for FY26, and \$26,500 for FY27. (12/09/24)
- → Appointed Gus Athanasopoulos to the Fourth of July Commission. (1/13/25)
- ✓ Approved an ordinance amending Village Code Section 4-1-2 (C) as it pertains to building permit fees. (1/13/25)
- ✓ Approved a 3-year contract with Flock Safety in an amount not to exceed \$32,500 per year. (1/13/25)
- ✓ Approved an ordinance authorizing a moratorium on the collection of certain new residential building permit fees (park and school impact) until May 1, 2025. (2/10/25)

Continued on next page

Board meeting highlights continued

- ✓ Approved an ordinance authorizing the execution of an IGA between the Illinois Office of the Comptroller and the Village of Beecher regarding access to the Comptrollers Local Debt Recovery Program. (2/10/25)
- ✓ Approved proposal from Definitive Resources Inc. for the installation of audio-visual equipment in the new Public Safety Facility community room in the amount of \$8,948.25. (2/24/25)
- ✓ Authorized the Village Administrator to enter into a contract for the purchase of electricity from the lowest cost electricity provider for the purposes of commercial accounts through the Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative bid process. (2/24/25)
- ✓ Approved proposal from MGM Excavating for excavation of black dirt at the new Public Safety Facility parking lot in the amount of \$5,675.00. (2/24/25)
- ✓ Approved proposal from Matthew Paving for the installation of stone and asphalt at the new Public Safety Facility parking lot in the amount of \$12,550. (2/24/25)
- ✓ Authorized the Police Department to purchase a 2025 Dodge Ram 1500 SSV from Thomas Dodge in the amount of \$43,562.00 from the FY2025/26 budget. (2/24/25)
- ✓ Approved a resolution authorizing an IGA for participation in the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network (IPWMAN). (3/10/25)
- ✓ Approved an ordinance replacing Zoning Ordinance No. 1046 and amending the zoning district map. (3/10/25)
- ✓ Approved the purchase of 10 Axon TASER 10's from Axon Enterprise Inc. in the amount of \$49,398 over 5 years. This is a cost of \$9,879.60 per year beginning May 2025. (3/10/25)
- ✓ Approved purchase of soccer nets for Welton Stedt Park. (3/24/25)
- ✓ Approved use of TIF funds for sidewalk repair in the TIF District to benefit senior citizens. (3/24/25)

The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6 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 the Village's YouTube channel. A link to the Village YouTube Channel can be found on the Village Website.



ANNUAL RATE INCREASE TO GO IN EFFECT ON MAY 1ST

UPDATED WATER/SEWER/REFUSE RATES

SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL RATE

WATER \$78.20/8,000 Gallon Minimum

\$8.15 per 1,000 Gal. after Minimum

\$9.15 per 1,000 Gal. after 30,000 Gallon use

SEWER \$49.28/8,000 Gallon Minimum

\$6.16 per 1,000 Gal. after Minimum (Gallons based on water usage)

SEWER DEBT SERVICE \$10.00 Flat Fee

REFUSE & RECYCLING PICK-UP \$44.00 (Homewood Disposal Service)

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT \$2.00

MINIMUM BILL \$183.48

Rates are calculated based on bi-monthly billing (bills go out around the 5th of every odd month and are due on the 30th of that month)



First Community Investment Center Can Help

Meet our new Financial Advisor, Robert Walker, here to help you achieve your financial goals with personalized guidance and expertise!

Interested in meeting Robert? Give him a call at (708) 946-2246 to schedule an appointment.



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

First Community Investment Center is a marketing name of Cetera Investment Services. Securities and insurance products are provided by Cetera Investment Services LLC, Membes SIPC. Advisory services are provided by Cetera Investment Advisor Investment products are: Not FDIC insured. May Jose value. Not bank guaranteed



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Ashley Fluechtling President

Office (708) 251-8773 ashley@hvac-masters.com www.hvac-masters.com



YARD WASTE BAG COLLECTION

- ♦ Yard waste Season is April 1st thru November 30th.
- ♦ Place vard waste in brown paper vard waste bags with a Homewood 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 any retail paper yard waste bags as long as they display a green Homewood/Star Disposal sticker. The green stickers are sold at Walt's Food Center and the Beecher Village Hall.

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 \$200 per year for unlimited yard waste. Contact Homewood/Star Disposal directly for cart rental. Their website is https://mydisposal.com/ and their phone number is **708-748-8381**. You will be billed directly from Homewood/Star Disposal for cart rental.





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

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER BEECHER, IL 60401

Newsletter Editor: Janett McCawley, Village Clerk



STAY CONNECTED!

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EDDM RETAIL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Washington Township - Financial Fraud Presentation

May 8th - 9 am / Washington Township Ctr

Beecher Lions Club Farmer's Market

2nd and 4th Saturdays - Beginning June 14th in Firemen's Park

Concert Series in Firemen's Park

(See details on page 2)

Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days

June 5-7

(beecherchamber.org)

4th of July Festival

July 2-5 (see details on page 4)

National Night Out

August 5th in Firemen's Park

Lions Club All American Day

August 23rd - 9 am - 1 pm 600 block of Gould Street

