THE BEECHER BULLETIN

"Your Village Newsletter" Fall 2026

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Village of Beecher

OFFICIALS

Marcy Meyer
President

Trustees:

Todd Kraus
Joseph Tieri
Roger Stacey
Erik Gardner
Brian Diachenko
Jessica Smith

Denise Abbink
Village Clerk

Matt Conner
Administrator

John Galvin
Chief of Police

Donna Lippelt
Office Manag./Treasurer

Adam Held
Supt. of Public Works

A New Chapter for the Village of Beecher

Change is a natural part of any community, and here in Beecher, we are fortunate to have people who care deeply about our Village and are willing to step up and serve our community.

Today, we'd like to recognize some changes taking place within Village Administration and Public Works, while also welcoming two familiar faces into new roles.

Thank You, Charity!

First, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you and farewell to Village Administrator, Charity Mitchell.

Charity has been part of the Village of Beecher family for approximately three years, and we are grateful for the time, effort, and dedication she has given to our community.

We wish Charity nothing but the best in what comes next and thank her for being a part of Beecher.

A Familiar Face Takes the Helm

Stepping into the role of Village Administrator is longtime Village employee Matt Conner. For many residents, Matt is already a familiar face. He has been part of the Village of Beecher for more than 23 years, beginning his career in June 2003 as part-time summer help after graduating from Beecher High School.

As Beecher continued to grow during the housing boom of the early 2000s, the Village created a new full-time position within the Public Works Department. Matt transitioned to full-time work that December, beginning what would become a long and dedicated career serving the community.

Since then, Matt has worked his way through the Village ranks, earning a promotion to Foreman in 2014 and then to Public Works Superintendent in 2018. His many years of experience have given him a unique understanding of the Village, its operations, and the people who call Beecher home.

Matt's connection to Beecher goes back well before his Village career. He was raised here and has been part of the Beecher community since childhood. He is the proud father of his 9-year-old son, Grayson, who plays goalie for the 10U Squirt team with Midwest Blackbirds Travel Hockey, where Matt also serves as an Assistant Coach.

With more than two decades of experience serving the Village, combined with his deep roots and connection to Beecher, this new role is a natural next step for Matt. We are excited to see him take on this new responsibility and know he will continue to bring the same dedication and commitment to the Village that he has demonstrated throughout his career.

Continued on page 3

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Marcy Meyer
Village President

After a long and, at times, challenging summer, I am sure we are all looking forward to Fall with cooler weather and hopefully, fewer storms.

I would like to thank everyone for their patience in dealing with storm clean-up. It definitely taxed all our resources, as well as the resources of the entire area. We are finally finished with clean-up, but we will still be assessing the health of the trees that were impacted by the storms. That will be an ongoing effort.

There were many residents impacted by water in their basements and around their property. Unfortunately, with as much rainfall as we had, there was nowhere for it to go. The ground was saturated and at times the creek was full. Even the Thornton Quarry and McCook TARP Reservoirs were almost completely full.

The McCook 3.5-billion-gallon reservoir has filled six times this year. Prior to this, it only filled five times total between 2021 and 2025. We have had a LOT of rain.

We have more, exciting staff changes coming up but there is more information about this in the newsletter.

Beecher Youth Commission has asked to separate from the Village to form a 501(c)(3) which will make it easier for them to fundraise. We respect their decision and look forward to all the exciting events they are planning for the youth of the community.

We have had a few new businesses open since the last newsletter and a few others have changed locations. Please stop in to welcome them.
Restoration Alley, offering home décor, clothing, bath and body items and specialty foods, has moved into the former police station at 724 Penfield St. just west of the post office.
Aluma Salon has also moved to the former police station at 724 Penfield.
Pack-It-Up Postal at 435 W. Indiana Avenue just east of Dixie Highway provides shipping, packaging supplies, faxing and other services.
Revive Barber Studio is opening in the bowling alley building at 643 Dixie Highway.
Kayleelynn Studio has moved to 644 Dixie Highway.
Melissa Leoni Photography moved to 608 Gould Street.

For more timely updates don't forget to follow the official "Village of Beecher, IL" Facebook page. The Village website provides a wealth of information if you're looking for documents and information.

Let's hope for a mild winter!!!

Beecher Police Department News



The Beecher Police Department would like to introduce our new officer, Matthew Maitlen. Officer Maitlen is a full-time certified law enforcement officer with prior experience with the City of Champaign Police Department. He also has additional public safety experience as a Public Safety Officer for Olivet Nazarene University, his alma mater. We are excited to have Officer Maitlen as part of the team. Please join us in welcoming him to the Beecher Police Department!

Continued from page 1

Welcome, Adam!

With Matt moving into the Village Administrator position, Adam Held will be stepping into the role of Public Works Superintendent.

Adam joined the Village of Beecher in 2024, bringing with him 25 years of Public Works experience with the Town of Dyer, Indiana. Since joining Beecher, Adam has become a familiar face around town and has brought valuable experience and knowledge to our Public Works Department. We are excited to have him take on this new role and continue serving our community.

Outside of his work with the Village, Adam is also a coach with Midwest Blackbirds Travel Hockey. He is the proud father of his 12-year-old son, Easton, who plays baseball in both the Spring and Fall seasons.

A Thank You and a Warm Welcome

Please join us in wishing Charity Mitchell well and thanking her for her service to the Village of Beecher.

At the same time, please join us in congratulating Matt Conner on his new role as Village Administrator and welcoming Adam Held as our new Public Works Superintendent. Both Matt and Adam bring years of experience and a genuine commitment to serving the people of Beecher. We are excited about this next chapter and look forward to all they will continue to do for our Village!

Congratulations, Matt and Adam, and thank you, Charity!

Village of Beecher - Water Billing Made Easy

Choose the payment and billing options that work best for you!

Ways to Pay Your Water Bill

- **Online:** Pay anytime at villageofbeecher.org, ePay, “Make a One Time Payment”.
- **By mail:** Mail your payment to Village of Beecher, PO Box 1154, Beecher, IL 60401.
- **In person:** Visit the Village Hall during regular business hours or use the drive-thru window in the back of the building.
- **Drop box:** Place your payment in the secure drop box anytime. There is one located in the front of the building and one located in the back.
- **Direct debit:** Enroll in automatic payments from your checking account so your bill is paid on the due date each billing cycle. You will continue to receive a bill either in the mail or by email.

Ways to Receive Your Water Bill

- **Paper bill by mail:** Receive a printed bill at your mailing address.
- **Email bill:** Sign up for paperless billing and receive your bill directly in your inbox.

Helpful Reminders

- Water bills are bi-monthly, go out around the 5th of the odd month and are due on the 30th.
- Have your account number ready when making a payment online.
- Allow enough time for mailed payments to arrive before the due date.
- Update your contact information if your mailing address, email address, or phone number changes.

Questions? Contact the Water Billing Department for assistance with payment options, billing delivery preferences, or account updates.

EXCITING UPDATES AND NEW WINTER EXHIBIT AT THE BEECHER DEPOT/MUSEUM 620 REED STREET



As we step into a new season, the Beecher Depot/Museum has updated its schedule to better serve the community while preserving our town's rich heritage. Beginning in October, the museum's new hours **are from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the first and third Saturday of every month.** We hope these dedicated weekend hours will make it easier for families, weekend visitors, and history buffs alike to come explore our local roots!

COMING THIS WINTER: THE VINTAGE TOOL EXHIBIT!

We are thrilled to announce a special, limited-time exhibit! For the months of **January and February**, the museum will host a **Vintage Tool Exhibit**. This unique display features small to medium sized hand-forged equipment, historic woodworking gear, and unique agricultural tools used right here in the Beecher area over a century ago. Come see the craftsmanship of yesteryear and learn how our ancestors built the very foundations of our community.



CALLING ALL LOCAL COLLECTORS, LEND US YOUR TOOLS!

Help us bring our upcoming winter exhibit to life! The museum is looking to borrow local, historic, or vintage tools to feature in our January and February display. If you have a family heirloom or unique antique tool you'd be willing to loan us for two months, please call the Village Hall at 708-946-2261 and ask to leave a message for Don or Erik with the Depot/Museum.

THE HISTORIC DEPOT/MUSEUM IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

A successful small-town museum can only survive through its volunteers and **we need your help!** To support the preservation of local history, we are actively looking for volunteers to fill a variety of fascinating and rewarding roles from collecting, organizing and cataloging historic items, computer entry, social media posting, keeping the exhibit areas clean and organized, etc.

No prior museum experience is required—just a love for our town's history and a willingness to help! Whether you can spare a few hours a month or want to get involved weekly, we would love to have you on board.

Plan Your Next Visit to the Depot/Museum

When: The 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month (11:00 AM – 3:00 PM)
Where: 620 Reed Street
Admission: Free (donations accepted)
Open other hours by appointment only

To sign up as a volunteer or learn more about the upcoming Vintage Tool Exhibit, please contact us by email at depot@villageofbeecher.org or call the Village Hall, leave your name and number and one of our volunteers will call you back. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our history alive!

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT BEECHER BLESSINGS?

Beecher Blessings, established in 2023, is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to helping families and individuals within the Beecher community. We raise funds throughout the year and work with local schools, churches, and community groups to identify those most in need, providing assistance and support. Our goal is to provide assistance and bring happiness to those who need it. With your donation, we are able to do just that!

WHO ARE WE?

Beecher Blessings is a 501C3 organization that operates within the boundaries of the Beecher 200U School District and the Beecher Fire Protection District. The Beecher Fire Chief and Beecher Police Chief are both members of the Board.

WHAT DO WE DO?

Our mission is to help families in the community that are struggling financially, with major medical issues or another major life event that may need help and support. We try to ease the burden by helping with utility payments, clothing, grocery vouchers and Christmas presents.

Beecher Blessings members are all volunteers and we have no overhead. **100%** of every donation that we receive goes to help out members of our community. Please consider donating, and be a blessing to the Beecher community!

www.BeecherBlessings.com

BEECHER BLESSINGS

DOG TAGS GO ON SALE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1st

Dog tags go on sale Tuesday, December 1st. The price is $10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2027. After the March 15th deadline, the price of dog tags increases. 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 proof 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.





VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since Spring of 2026:

- Authorized Chief Galvin to execute an agreement with the Guardian First Responder Services to provide mental health screenings for all Police Officers (4/13/26)
- Recognition of the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association for the donation of two rifle plates/active shooter kits to the police department (4/13/26)
- Authorizing the President and Clerk to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village of Beecher and the County of Will, Illinois, regarding the use of the Will County Right of Way for placement of license plate reading cameras (4/13/26)
- Approved resolution #2026-03 to adopt the FY 26/27 budget (4/27/26)
- Approved a proposal from Irwin Construction to complete work on the exterior of the Village Hall in the amount of $51,600 (4/13/26)
- Approved a motion directing the village attorney to draft an ordinance amending village code as it relates to the operation of non-highway vehicles per Illinois Statute (5/11/26)
- Approved a proposal from Baxter & Woodman to provide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program assistance for 2026 in an amount not to exceed $13,900.00 (5/11/26)
- Approved a proposal from Asterra to provide satellite leak detection services in the amount of $36,000 (5/11/26)
- Recognition of Corporal Roger Sipple, as a member of the Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Task Force, for receiving the Robert Sattler Memorial Goal Accomplishment Award from the National Center Regional Chapter of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (5/26/26)
- Approved a bid for the replacement of 13 windows at Village Hall to Jabaay's Door Store & Windows, the lowest responsible bidder, in the amount of $37,444.00 (5/26/26)
- Approved a proposal from Austgen Electric, Inc. to repair a chlorine pump and install a new chlorine pump at well house #5 in the amount of $5,376.00 (5/26/26)
- Approved a proposal from Cecich & Son Enterprises LLC in the amount of $38,300.12 pursuant to the Economic Incentive Agreement dated June 26, 2023 (6/8/26)
- Approved a proposal for a five-year service agreement with Ryan Fire Protection in the total contract amount of $10,208 (6/22/26)
- Approved the purchase of a Boss stainless steel 9'-2' V-DXT plow from LOF Truck & Trailer in the amount of $11,843.07 (6/22/26)
- Approved the purchase of a 2026 Moritz aluminum truck bed from DeJong Equipment in the amount of $7,000 (6/22/26)

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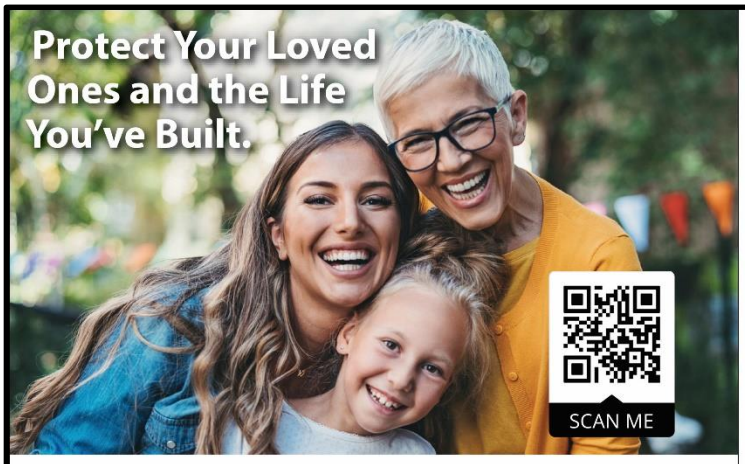
Board Meeting Highlights continued

- Approved resolution #2026-08 designating Beecher Village Hall and Beecher Police Department as warming and cooling centers (7/13/26)
- The Village Board advised that Chief Galvin successfully applied for an Organized Retail Crime Grant through the Attorney General's Office. The Village of Beecher was awarded $22,500, which will be used during Fiscal Year 2027 (7/13/26)
- Approved Ordinance #1462 dissolving the Beecher Youth Commission. This motion was requested by the Beecher Youth Commission, as the Commission believed it would have greater fundraising opportunities if it were no longer affiliated with the Village (8/10/26)

The Beecher Village Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Beecher Village Hall, 625 Dixie Highway. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend.



Video recordings of the meetings are available to be viewed on the **Village's YouTube Channel** and are shared on the Village of Beecher Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/beecher.il.60401/. A link to our YouTube Channel may also be found on the Village website.



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FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

HALLOWEEN

Trick-or-Treat hours

3-7 p.m.

Saturday, October 31st

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!



(Rain or Shine)

Kids are urged not to eat any unwrapped candy, fruit or suspicious items before a parent inspects them. Motorists are encouraged to drive extra slow on Halloween. The police will have extra patrols out, including a haunted squad car to make sure all of the little ghouls, goblins, monsters and super heroes are safe!



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.

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THE OLD GUN SHOP
OGS
COFFEE HOUSE
744 Indiana Ave
Beecher, IL
HOURS
Tues – Friday
7:30 AM – 2:00 PM
Saturday
8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Specialty Drinks ★ Breakfast ★ Lunch
RELAX & RELOAD

BEECHER'S 6TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.





We're excited to announce the 6 th Annual Village of Beecher Holiday Celebration and Christmas Tree Lighting to be held at Firemen's Park!

The Village, Township, 4th of July Commission, Beecher Fire Protection District and several local churches are planning festivities on Sunday, November 29th for all to enjoy.

A light parade will kick off at 5 p.m., followed by the official tree lighting. Santa will then make a personal appearance, and the kids can enjoy his workshop with art and craft activities.

The Beecher 4th of July Commission will be providing free food as a thank you to the residents for their support. There will also be free cookies, hot chocolate and goodie bags for the kids provided by the churches.

TENTATIVE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

1-3:30 p.m. ✯**Pop-up Christmas Market at the Community Hall**

4:45 p.m. ✯**Line up for holiday light parade - corner of Reed & Penfield**
(in paved parking lot east of the railroad tracks)

✯*Parade registration forms will be available at the Village Hall & villageofbeecher.org* ✯
Starting on 11/2 and due by 11/25

5:00 p.m. ✯**Parade begins at corner of Reed & Penfield & ends in Firemen's Park**
(ROUTE: Begins at corner of Reed & Penfield; Reed north to Hodges; Hodges east to Woodward; Woodward south to Penfield; Penfield east to Firemen's Park.

5:15 p.m. ✯**Santa arrives in Firemen's Park**
✯**Food Stand & Santa's workshop with arts & crafts for the kids begins**

5:20 p.m. ✯**Tree lighting ceremony**

5:30 p.m. ✯**Santa & his workshop will be in the north pavilion for pictures**

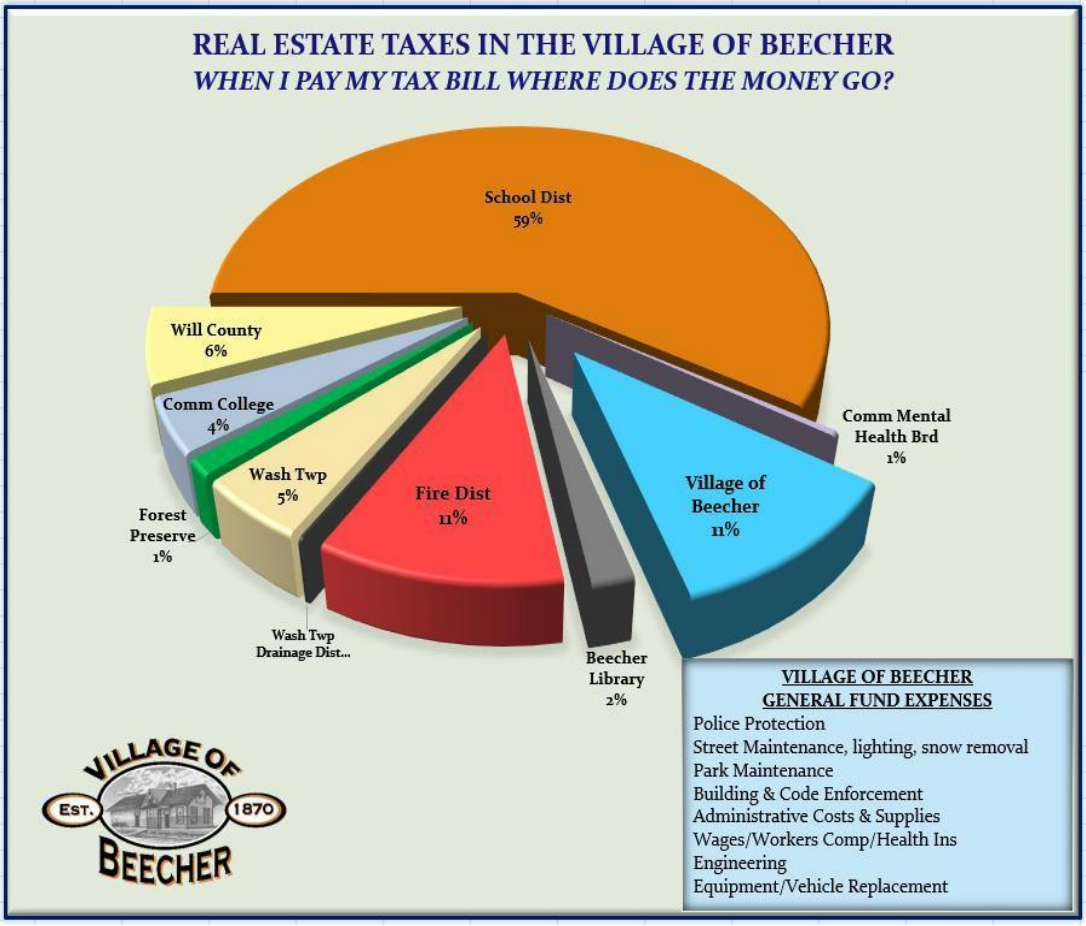
We hope to see you there!

SNOW PARKING REGULATIONS DURING WINTER WEATHER



Even though many of us don't want to think about that white stuff, with winter approaching, the Village wants to remind residents that "It shall be unlawful to park any vehicle on any public street in the Village at any time within a twenty -four (24) hour period following a snowfall of two inches (2") or more. Such prohibited parking on any public street shall include the paved portion of any roadway or thoroughfare and also the paved portion of any Village-owned right of way adjacent to such roadway in a business district." This 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.



This chart gives a visual representation of where your property tax dollars are allocated. The Village of Beecher receives 11% of the property tax you pay. Other local governments receive more or less. The Village has other options for obtaining revenue, such as income taxes, sales taxes and water and sewer fees. The fire and school districts rely on the property tax as their main source of revenue which is why they receive a higher percentage.

Only those in the Village of Beecher limits will have "Village of Beecher" listed on their tax bill. If Village of Beecher is not listed on your tax bill, then you would be considered in unincorporated Will County and would not pay taxes to the Village.









Protect Water Quality in Your Own Yard in Every Season!



In the Fall

- Gardens need bedcovers. When cleaning out vegetable and flower gardens, don't leave the soil bare for the winter. Use chopped leaves as mulch or plant a "green mulch" to add nutrients and organic matter to the soil.

- Plant! Early autumn is the best time to transplant shrubs and other perennials and to reseed lawns. Choose grass seed mixes that match your site. Consider adding a little clover seed for a free source of nitrogen fixation. Early autumn is the best time for a single dose of fertilizer for good grass root growth and a healthy lawn next spring. Slow-release or organic fertilizers stay where plants can use them and out of the local waters and wells. Keep watering all new plantings until the ground is frozen to give the roots plenty of opportunity to grow.

- Save the leaves. Leaves have lots of landscaping uses. Make a compost pile, chop them and mulch the landscaping and garden beds, or create new beds under the trees from which they fell.



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)



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
E-Mail: clerk@villageofbeecher.org

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Newsletter Editor: Diana Jerkatis



PEACE LUTHERAN TRUNK OR TREAT
540 Oak Park Ave
Saturday, October 31st 11 am - 1 pm

HALLOWEEN TRICK-OR-TREAT HOURS
Saturday, October 31st 3 pm –7 pm

LIONS CLUB HALLOWEEN IN THE PARK
(hot dogs, fun & games)
Saturday, October 31st 6:00 pm

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
Lighted Parade / Tree Lighting / Santa / Santa's Workshop
Sunday, November 29th *(rain or shine)*
5 - 7 pm *(see page 9 for details)*
Firemen's Park / 675 Penfield

Check Facebook for details about the Holiday Lights Decorating contest!