



Beecher Police Department

Chief Jeffrey L. Weissgerber

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www.beecherpolice.org

THE BEECHER POLICE DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING STATE AND LOCAL LAWS WHICH ARE NOW IN EFFECT:

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES: No texting while driving. No person may operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device, including but not limited to a wireless telephone, personal digital assistant or a portable or mobile computer while being used to compose, send or read an electronic message.

NO PHONE IN SCHOOL/WORK ZONES: No person may use a wireless telephone in a school zone or a construction zone or maintenance speed zone.

LOW SPEED VEHICLES: Low speed vehicles may only be operated upon roadways with a speed limit of 30 miles per hour or less. Low speed vehicles may cross a street at an intersection where the street being crossed has a posted speed limit of not more than 45 miles per hour. All persons operating a low speed vehicle must conform to traffic regulations; have a certificate of insurance for the low speed vehicle and a valid driver's license. The Illinois Vehicle Code defines a "low speed vehicle" as any 4 wheeled vehicle with a maximum speed greater than 20 miles per hour but not greater than 25 miles per hour, that conforms with federal motor vehicle safety standards set forth for a low speed vehicle. It must have at a minimum, a headlight, taillight, front and rear turn signal lamps, brake lights, a parking brake, red reflectors, mirrors, seatbelts and a windshield. Every owner of a low speed vehicle must make application to the Illinois Secretary of State for a certificate of title and registration. The annual fee for the registration is \$18.00 a year.

Golf carts, ATV's, dirt bikes, mini-bikes, go-carts and all other "non-highway vehicles" are not permitted to be driven on any public roadway within the Village of Beecher.

To read more about these and other changes in the law, visit www.cyberdriveillinois.com. On the right side of the page, you can click "2009-2010 Law Updates" to review all the changes since January 1st.

PARKING OF BOATS, CAMPERS, TRAILERS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES AND 2ND DIVISION VEHICLES: No trailer, boat, camper, recreational vehicle or 2nd division vehicle, (trucks with a weight class over 8000 lbs.), may be parked on residential streets for more than 3 hours. Zoning also prohibits the parking of these vehicles in the front yard for more than 3 days.

DOG TAGS: All dogs kept within the Village of Beecher are required to have a dog license issued by the Village and proof of rabies vaccination. Dog tags are \$10 each and the deadline for purchase is March 15th of each year. Dog tags go on sale December 1st.

GARBAGE CONTAINERS AND YARD WASTE BAGS TO CURB; TIME RESTRICTIONS: In June of 2009, the Village Board amended the refuse ordinance, (8-10-5 Deposits in Streets), to prohibit placing garbage containers and yard waste bags on the Village parkway, prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before pick-up. All containers must be removed from the parkway, (Village right-of-way) within 24 hours of pick-up. The ordinance was amended by the Board in response to citizen complaints where containers and yard waste bags were being placed at the curb sometimes days before the scheduled pick-up and containers were left at the curb for several more days. This caused a variety of health concerns including garbage being littered on the streets and into adjacent yards along with attracting animals and rodents. The Police Department and Village Code Enforcement has been working collectively to educate the public regarding the ordinance change. Violators have been issued warnings and hundreds of letters have been sent out. Help keep our Village clean and avoid a \$100 fine.

NO LEFT TURN TO PARK: Whenever there is a double yellow line on the roadway, it is illegal to turn left, over the double yellow line for on-street parking. Penfield Street in front of the Village Hall and post office and along Gould Street include examples of “no left turn for parking”. This law does not apply to pulling into a private driveway, alley, street or garage.

FIREWORKS: It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly possess, offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail or use or explode any fireworks. The entire ordinance complete with definitions is available on the Village and Police Department’s website.

SOLICITORS: While the Village has an ordinance that regulates soliciting in residential areas, it cannot outright deny anyone a permit to solicit. However, a permit to solicit does not mean the holder of the permit nor the product they are selling has been endorsed by the Village. There have been many complaints about solicitors and unless there is a pattern of ordinance violations, they have a right to solicit. You can also ask to see the solicitation permit (printed on Village letterhead) from the individual at your door. You as a citizen also have the right to close your door and say “no thanks”. A few of the solicitors this year have been pushy and have provided misleading information. Some say that they are working with the school, or a relative is a client and suggested they talk to you, etc. Some of them are very nice, friendly and even know information about your neighbors and relatives and will ask you to refer them to someone you know or are related to. If you don’t want to be bothered at home, just close the door and they will leave. Or if you have a sign posted on your door saying “no solicitors”, they should not make contact with you. If they violate any of the provisions of the ordinance, the permit may be revoked. Religious organizations and politicians are not governed under any solicitation ordinance and may go to any residence without a permit or without notifying the Village unless they are asking for money. Others are also excluded by ordinance like school kids participating in a school fundraiser. A complete copy of the ordinance is available on the Village website. In addition, any business can go “door to door” to distribute flyers or other information without a solicitor's permit as long as they do not try to contact anyone or engage in conversation, but they should notify the Village of such activity since it will surely generate telephone calls to the Village Hall and Police Department.

