



# The Beecher Bulletin

## “Your Village Newsletter”



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**A CHANGING OF THE GUARD ON THE BEECHER VILLAGE BOARD**  
*Farewell to the Three Incumbents Who Chose Not to Run, and Hail to the New Trustees*

The three incumbent Trustees who were up for re-election this year chose not to run, ending over fifty years of combined service to the Village of Beecher. Roger Heldt was first elected to the Village Board in 1976 and has served eight consecutive terms for a total of thirty-one years. Village records indicate that Mr. Heldt may be the longest-serving Trustee in Beecher’s history. Jim Rehborg served two terms in the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. He then served on the Plan Commission for six years, was appointed to the Village Board to fill an unexpired term, and then ran for another term. Chris Peterson was appointed to fill a vacancy and served two terms. He previously served on the Plan Commission. The Village congratulates these individuals for their extensive length of service and dedication to the residents of the Village.



Outgoing Trustees (l-r) Jim Rehborg, Roger Heldt & Chris Peterson

**Village of Beecher**

**OFFICIALS**

Paul Lohmann  
*President*

**Trustees:**

Gayle Ahrendt  
 Ronald Kuhlman  
 Scott Wehling  
 Brian Cleary  
 Anthony “Joe” Gardner  
 Gregory Szymanski

Janett Conner  
*Clerk*

Nelson Collins  
*Treasurer*

Robert O. Barber  
*Administrator*

Jeffrey Weissgerber  
*Chief of Police*

Harold “Bud” Cowger  
*Supt. of Public Works*

Julie Riechers  
*Code Enforcement Off.*

The Village would also like to welcome the three new Trustees who took their oath of office on May 15<sup>th</sup>. These new Trustees are Greg Szymanski, Joe Gardner and Brian Cleary. Each of these new Trustees also received their Committee assignments on May 15<sup>th</sup> and they look forward to serving the residents of the Village.



Village Board members (l-r): Trustees Ronald Kuhlman, Joe Gardner, Scott Wehling, Gregory Szymanski, Gayle Ahrendt, Brian Cleary, and Village President Paul Lohmann

# BEECHER'S 2007 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION SCHEDULE IS SET!

*Six Days of "Fun in the Sun" to Help Wash Away this Winter's Memories*

The Beecher Fourth of July Commission has set the schedule for this year's celebration, and it is going to be a long one! Due to the availability of the carnival and the fact that the 4<sup>th</sup> falls on a Wednesday, the celebration will open on Friday night, June 29<sup>th</sup> and runs through Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

On Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, the park will open at 6:00 p.m. "Gone Country" is planned for the main stage. On Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, the park will be open from 2:00 p.m. to midnight. A tug-of-war competition and petting zoo will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m. On the main stage, there will be local talent demonstrations from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Scheduled to perform are the Beecher Dance Studio, Beecher Recreation drama club, and the PAKT karate demonstration. "Smoking Rynos" will play on the main stage at 7:00 p.m.



On Sunday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, the park will be open from 2:00 p.m. to midnight. The petting zoo will be available for the children, and a NASCAR miniature raceway venue will allow participants to test their driving skills from 2:00-6:00 p.m. "The Waterloo German Band Ensemble" will perform on the main stage from 2:00-3:30 p.m. and 4:30-6:00 p.m. "The Convertibles" barbershop quartet will perform from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The second annual bean bag toss tournament will be from 2:00-6:00 p.m. in the sunken garden next to the Community Hall. The Beecher Chamber of Commerce's annual pork chop dinner will be served from 4:00-7:00 p.m. "Replay" is set for the main stage at 7:00 p.m.

On Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the park opens at 6:00 p.m. "Small Time Dave and the Bluz Brothers Revue" are set for the main stage at 7:00 p.m. On Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> the park opens at 6:00 p.m. At 7:00 p.m., the "Silhouettes", a very popular band from Kankakee which disbanded about 10 years ago has come together once again and has agreed to play at Beecher's Fourth. This band last played in Beecher in 1995 during our Quasquicentennial Celebration street dance.

Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> is always the day to be in Beecher. The Lion's Club 5K walk/run kicks off at the Community Hall at 8:00 a.m. Several local teen bands playing sets for their fans on the main stage will begin at noon. The carnival will open and the parade line-up will also begin at 2:00 p.m. with registration at the Princess Café parking lot. The parade will kick off at 4:00 p.m. at Elliott and Miller and will follow the same route as in prior years. "Five Guys Named Moe" is scheduled for the main stage at 7:00 p.m. At 9:30 p.m., the celebration culminates with a fireworks show from Melrose Pyrotechnics. This is the same company which provides the Chicago lakefront celebration on July 3<sup>rd</sup> (but we think our show is better). The Fourth of July Commission has increased its budget for fireworks this year so be ready for a few surprises. The annual car raffle drawing will be held at 11:00 p.m. This year, a brand new Chevy HHR will be the prize.



Uncle Sam aka Beecher's very own Brian Hayhurst

The Beecher Fourth of July Commission consists of 17 dedicated members and over 100 volunteers. However, the celebration needs more volunteers selling car tickets, flipping hamburgers, calling bingo, or pouring beer. Want to help? Call the Village Hall at 946-2261 and we will gladly sign you up for a two hour shift.

## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### The following actions taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Fall of 2006:

- ◆ Awarded a bid in the amount of \$125,583.50 to George's Landscaping Services for the installation of two ball fields and walking paths at Welton Stedt Park, 29750 Cardinal Creek Boulevard (south of the new Junior High School). Construction of this new park is expected to begin May 1, 2007 and be completed by September 1, 2007.
- ◆ Referred to the Beecher Planning and Zoning Commission a request for an amended and expanded Planned Development for The Preserve at Cardinal Creek, which would be primarily located between Fairway Drive and Indiana Avenue on present golf course land. The petitioner, MGM Development, wishes to construct 240 residential units on this parcel and reduce the size of the golf course from 27 to 18 holes. As of this printing, the proposal remains with the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- ◆ Denied a request to authorize the Village Attorney to draft an annexation agreement for Prairie Meadows Subdivision owned by Chuck Bruti on 27 acres of land at the south end of the Village (an extension of Woodward Street). Trustees Rehborg and Peterson voted to have the annexation agreement drafted, while Trustees Kuhlman, Wehling and Ahrendt opposed the annexation agreement. Trustee Heldt abstained from voting.
- ◆ Authorized the replacement of the watermain on Country Lane from Dixie Highway to Catalpa in the amount of \$182,000 to M & J Underground and \$24,600 to the Village Engineer for observation. This project is being partially funded by a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant from Will County.
- ◆ Approved a motion by a vote of 4-2 to develop a master plan which would relocate all Village facilities, including the Police Station, Village Hall and Public Works garage to a 5.5 acre parcel located at Town Center Road and Indiana Avenue which was recently donated to the Village.
- ◆ Approved Sign and Facade Improvement Grants as follows: \$2,000 to Magic Moon Productions, Inc. for the restoration of the Les Myrick building located at the corner of Reed and Penfield Streets; \$884.38 to Cups on The Corner at 500 Indiana Avenue; \$825 to Beecher Dollar Store Plus for the installation of an illuminated sign; and \$2,000 to several businesses located at 500 Indiana Avenue for the installation of an integrated illuminated sign.
- ◆ Approved a revised site plan for the Fieldgate Development located on Church Road to the east of the new Junior High School. The amended site plan includes 199 single family homes and 179 townhomes, for a total of 378 units, which is 5 units less than what was originally approved.
- ◆ Approved a Planned Unit Development site plan for Beecher Plaza, located at 981 Dixie Highway. This 1.6 acre site will include seven different storefronts, 75 parking spaces and one drive-thru.
- ◆ Approved a joint application with Washington Township for a grant in the amount of \$28,000 for the installation of a 35 kw generator at the Washington Township Center. This grant was awarded by State Representative Lisa Dugan and the bid for the installation was approved from Riley Electric of Kankakee, Illinois. This generator will be used by Washington Township as a warming center, cooling center, and emergency operations center.
- ◆ Accepted the terms and conditions of an OSLAD Grant Agreement with the State of Illinois which requires the completion of a project in Firemen's Park in the amount of \$380,000 with \$190,000 being reimbursed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Funding for this project is being provided by park impact fees.

*Continued on next page*

- ◆ Accepted the resignation of Nelson Collins as Chairman of the Beecher Economic Development Authority.
- ◆ Approved a development agreement for the construction of 188 single family homes on property bounded by Church Road, Dixie Highway and the railroad tracks, known as the Creekside Subdivision as proposed by John Popp of RJR Development. Construction of this subdivision is expected to begin in the Fall of 2007 on the east phase between Trim Creek and Dixie Highway north of Willow Lane.
- ◆ Approved the appointment of Brad Coats replacing Mike Turcol on the Beecher Planning and Zoning Commission.
- ◆ Approved the application of a grant in the amount of \$28,200 for the construction of a concession stand and storage shed in Welton Stedt Park.
- ◆ Approved a proposal in the amount of \$14,800 to expand the Village's facilities planning area to include all land between Ashland Avenue, Offner Road, Cottage Grove and Church Road. The facilities planning area is recognized by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as land that is to be serviced by the Beecher wastewater treatment plant. The study will be conducted by Baxter and Woodman, the Village engineer.
- ◆ Approved payment in the amount of \$308,067.48 to Iroquois Paving for the 2006 resurfacing project using Motor Fuel Tax funds. \$129,711.42 will be withheld from payment to provide for repairs to the new pavement due to defects in workmanship.
- ◆ Approved the hiring of Marcy Meyer of Beecher as a part-time annexation strategist for properties north and west of the Village at a rate of \$1,500 per month.
- ◆ Approved a motion authorizing the Beecher Fourth of July Commission to demolish the old food stand and construct a new food stand in Firemen's Park beginning in August, 2007. The cost of this project is estimated at \$50,000 and will be paid for by proceeds generated by the annual Fourth of July celebrations.
- ◆ Approved the appointment of Phil Serviss, replacing Doug Short on the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- ◆ Approved the appointment of Marcy Meyer replacing Jeanette O'Grady as Planning and Zoning Commission Secretary.
- ◆ Approved a contract with Deenik Landscaping for mosquito spraying in 2007 in the amount of \$1,836.88 per spraying.
- ◆ Adopted an ordinance permitting open burning of native vegetation in place upon obtaining a permit from the Village and allowing for prairie grasses and native plants exceeding 8" in height in designated areas, such as rain gardens and bio-swales.

*The Village Board meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Washington Township Center, 30200 Town Center Drive. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.*



### **ANNUAL WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE REFLECTED ON MAY BILLING**



On January 12th, the Village Board voted to increase water rates by 10 cents per thousand gallons and sewer rates by 10 cents per thousand gallons effective March 1st for the May water bill beginning this year and an additional 10 cents for both the water and sewer rates on each March 1st thereafter. These annual increases were implemented to keep up with climbing costs for chemicals, testing supplies, electric, natural gas and other things needed for keeping the water and sewer systems running. The overall increase to a resident's bill who uses 8,000 gallons or less of water will only be \$1.60 per billing period.

## **DID YOU KNOW.....**

### **YARD WASTE BAGS**

Collection of yard waste bags by Star Disposal resumed April 1st. Yard waste bags may be placed at the curb for regular Monday pick-up until the end of November. Residents must use bags with the Star Disposal logo on them. The cost of the bag includes the fee for disposal of the yard waste. Bags can be purchased at various local businesses and at the Village Hall. Yard waste bags without the Star Disposal logo will not be picked up.



### **YARD WASTE CARTS**

If you have a lot of yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, trimmings, etc.) or just don't want the hassle of having to buy yard waste bags, you may want to consider renting a yard waste cart from Star Disposal. A yard waste cart for the 2007 season (April 1st through November 30th) costs \$130 per year to rent. Forms to rent a yard waste cart can be obtained at the Village Hall or Star Disposal can be contacted directly at 748-8381.

### **RECYCLING COLLECTION**



Recyclables are picked up in the Village every other Monday by Star Disposal (unless a major holiday falls on Monday then collection is on Tuesday). Residents must use the recycling bin provided free of charge by Star Disposal and place at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day with the handle of the container facing the house. For a list of items that may be recycled or a collection schedule, contact the Village Hall.

### **GARBAGE PICK-UP RULES**

Residential garbage collection is conducted by Star Disposal in the Village every Monday (unless a major holiday falls on Monday then collection is on Tuesday). Garbage should be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on collection day. Garbage should not be placed at the curb for pick-up any earlier than the evening before collection day and cans should be removed from the curb and put away by the end of collection day. Garbage should be placed in a container with a close-fitting cover so as not to blow around. Recycling, brush and yard waste bags are also collected on Mondays.



### **BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER**



The Village has received complaints about people allowing their dogs to do their "duty" in other people's yards and in public parks. As a pet owner you are responsible for picking up after your pet does his "duty". Be a responsible pet owner and clean up after your dog. Failure to do so could result in a fine. Leave local parks clean for the kids to play and be considerate of your neighbors!

### **THE WARM WEATHER MEANS IT'S TIME TO MOW LAWN**

It is unlawful to permit any grasses or weeds to grow to a height exceeding eight (8") inches anywhere in the Village. The code enforcement officer will issue tickets to those who violate this ordinance.



### **RADIO READ METER CHARGE**

The Village of Beecher has an Ordinance requiring all newly constructed homes and newly purchased homes to have a radio read water meter unit installed. The cost is a one time charge of \$275 and is generally paid by the new owner. The \$275 charge can be paid up front, on the first water bill or over 6 water billing periods. The purpose of the radio read meters is to save time and money during the time-consuming task of reading meters. With the radio read meters, the public works employee who is doing the readings, can get a meter reading by pulling up in front of the address and just pushing a button. Homes which already have a new radio read meter are exempt from the \$275 charge.



# Village of Beecher

724 Penfield Street/P.O. Box 1154

### Village Hall Hours

Mon-Tues-Thurs-Fri  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesday  
8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Village Hall  
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)

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## **NEW BRUSH PICK-UP PROGRAM BEGINS JUNE 4th** ***However, Residents Should Not Notice a Difference***

On Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Village's Public Works Department will begin picking up brush on parkways on its own once again using a brush chipper. For the past several years, public works employees manned a Star Disposal packer truck each Monday to pick up brush and yard waste bags.

Star Disposal will continue to pick up yard waste bags weekly on Mondays but only the "approved" bags will be picked up. These bags must have Star Disposal printing on them or a sticker purchased from the Village Hall. (See information on page #5.) Yard waste bags and brush will be picked up each Monday through November. Bags can be purchased at Knuth's Country Market, the grain elevator on Gould Street or at the Village Hall.

Remember, brush means any branch less than six feet in length or four inches in diameter. Large piles from whole trees and whole bushes with roots in dirt will not be picked up and a letter explaining the rules will be placed on your front door. Also, bush trimmings less than two feet long, leaves and grass clippings should be placed in the yard waste bags for pick-up.

This service to the residents is very time consuming and costly if the program is abused. Please respect the public works crews who help keep our Village clean and attractive.