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HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS DROP-OFF EVENT

**Saturday, May 6th from 8 A.M. - 3 P.M.
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher**

A household hazardous waste and electronics drop-off event will be held at Washington Township Center on May 6th for disposal of items such as electronics, small appliances, used oil, antifreeze, latex and oil based paints and stains, unwanted medication and other similar items free of charge to Will County residents only. For a more detailed list of accepted items, visit the Village's website at www.villageofbeecher.org and download the flyer or visit www.willcountygreen.com for all upcoming collection events in Will County.

PENFIELD STREET WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT UPDATE

The Village has approved a loan agreement with the IEPA and has awarded a bid to Brandt Excavating in the amount of \$1,050,465.89 to replace the watermain on Penfield which also includes a portion of Birch Street south of Penfield and Elm Street east of Catalpa. The bid is good for 120 days and we now have to wait for the IEPA to approve the loan agreement and the bid. As of this printing we are anticipating this approval by May 1st. It is going to be a very messy Summer along Penfield and for this we apologize for any inconvenience this work is going to cause. When work begins, it is suggested that alternate routes such as Maxwell or Woodward Streets be used to get to the post office. Penfield will remain open overnight and on weekends during construction but there may be times during the workday when it will be closed to local traffic only for safety reasons. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation!



Village of Beecher

OFFICIALS

Greg Szymanski
President

Trustees:

Scott Wehling
Ronald Kuhlman
Gayle Ahrendt
Jonathan Kypuros
Marcy Meyer
Frank Basile

Janett Conner
Clerk

Lynne Orr
Treasurer

Robert O. Barber
Administrator

Jeffrey Weissgerber
Chief of Police

Harold "Bud" Cowger
Supt. of Public Works

VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As I am writing this, we are welcoming spring, and waiting for the consolidated election results in April of 2017. We know for sure we will have two new trustees on the Village Board since Trustees Ahrendt and Kuhlman did not run again. I would like to thank both of them for their service to the Village. We will feature our new Trustees in our next newsletter.

BEECHER WOMEN'S CLUB CELEBRATES 95TH ANNIVERSARY

I would like to congratulate the Beecher Women's Club for their 95 years of service to the Village. The Village Board proclaimed March 7th 2017 as Beecher Women's Club Day and honored Jean Ohlendorf for 70 years of service, Beverly Wehling, 53 years of service, and Ruthann Sanders, 50 years of service. Happy Birthday!!!

UPDATE ON CSX RAILROAD

We have learned that CSX Railroad has a new CEO who is reviewing all projects including the intermodal that is proposed for Crete. We do not know if this will have any

Continued from previous page

effect on the project. To be safe, we are assuming that the project will proceed. We are making good use of our time discussing the project with Crete, CSX, the Illinois Department of Transportation and our legislators in Springfield and Washington in an attempt to get help on our roads, blocked crossings and noise. We have made a formal request to CSX to help pay for the quiet zone if the intermodal is built. As of today's date, it is my understanding CSX still has no formal agreement with Crete. We may know more on the project by the end of May.



LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

In the past four years the Village Board has worked as a team to improve communications with our residents, improve customer service, repair or replace streets, sidewalks, water mains including Penfield, Elm and Birch which should begin this spring as we wait for EPA approval. In the future I am sure the new Village Board will continue to update our infrastructure and encourage businesses and new residents to re-locate to Beecher. Also, we are doing our research to locate a builder or investor who is willing to build a senior citizen residential housing unit in Beecher. We have already discussed this with one property owner who may be willing to sell his land for this purpose. I am looking forward to working with the new Village Board on these few items mentioned above, as well as others.

Have a great summer.

Greg Szymanski
Village President



POLICE CHIEF JEFFREY WEISSGERBER PROVIDES TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM IDENTITY THEFT

Identity Theft is a crime that occurs when someone uses your personal information without your knowledge or permission for financial or other gain. Some tactics used by identity thieves are mail theft, trash theft (also known as dumpster diving), shoulder surfing (looking over your shoulder while you enter PIN's, or eavesdropping on your conversations), purse and or wallet thefts. Other ways, involving scams, include contacting you by mail, email or phone. Especially beware of "Spam" emails, unsolicited e-mails that promise some benefit but requests identifying data, without realizing that in many cases, the requester has no intention of keeping his promise. Never open an attachment if you do not know the sender or if you are unsure whether the sender is actually the person sending the email. If you think you have been victimized, report the incident to the Beecher Police Department, or the Will County Sheriff's Police if you live outside the corporate limits of Beecher.

With enough identifying information about an individual, a criminal can take over that individual's identity to conduct a wide range of crimes such as; making false applications for loans and credit cards, fraudulent withdrawals from bank accounts, fraudulent use of telephone calling cards or online accounts, or obtaining other goods or privileges which the criminal might be denied if he were to use his real name.

If you are a victim of identity theft, the Federal Trade Commission recommends these steps:

File a complaint with the FTC at identitytheft.gov.

Contact one of the three major credit bureaus to place a 'fraud alert' on your credit records:

Equifax, www.Equifax.com, 1-800-766-0008 • Experian, www.Experian.com, 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion, www.TransUnion.com, 1-800-680-7289

Contact your financial institutions, and close any financial or credit accounts opened without your permission

Another resource to help is the office of the Illinois Attorney General. They have established an identity theft hotline to help you as you work to clear your name and credit history. Experienced staff in the office is there to assist victims of identity theft. The hot line number is 1-866-999-5630.

Also be aware of scams usually done via telephone calls and emails, where you are promised a large sum of money or are a winner in a sweepstakes. Remember that if something seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Never give personal information over the phone, unless you made the call and know who you are talking to. Never send any money to persons you do not know. They might ask you to provide bond money for family member that has been arrested in another country. Do not fall for this scam. In addition to "scams", telemarketing firms make calls to solicit funds for certain organizations. Give only to established charities.

More information is available at the Beecher Police Department or online at the Illinois Attorney General website and the Federal Trade Commission websites: www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov www.identitytheft.gov

CELEBRATING BEECHER'S FOUNDING FATHER'S 200TH BIRTHDAY—APRIL 7, 1817

TIMOTHY LATHROP MILLER

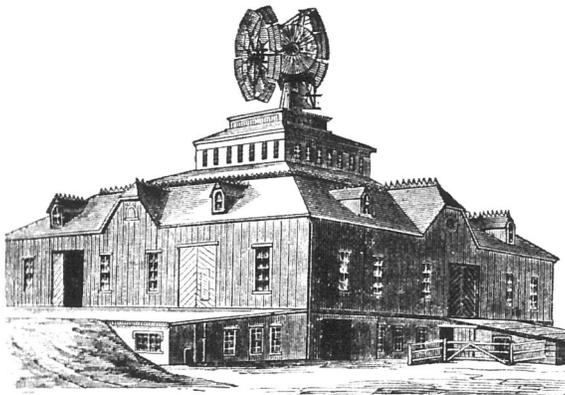
Timothy Lathrop Miller, the founder of the Village of Beecher and probably at one time the owner of the largest herd of registered Hereford cattle in the United States, was born at Middletown, Connecticut on April 7, 1817. A prosperous Chicago fire and life insurance agent in 1857, the year the Illinois Central Railroad was completed, he increased from 240 to 600 the acres of farmland he owned near Washington Center (a day's journey from Chicago on the Hubbard Trail, the main route between Chicago and Vincennes, Indiana, an important commercial center in those days.)



T. L. MILLER.

In 1869, Miller learned that the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes Railroad was to be built near Washington Center. He made a parol (oral) agreement with the railroad company to build a village at the site of his farmland, if they would agree to build a station. Both parties kept their word. In 1870, the Village of Beecher was platted by George Dolton at Miller's request, and a depot was built south of the current location and on the other side of the tracks. The railroad, encountering a hill on the agreed-upon section line location, built tracks around the hill, promising to change them later. Miller grumbled about the "shanty of a station." The C.D. & V. was bankrupt in five years, and the tracks still run around the hill. Dolton wanted to call the village "Millersville" but Miller preferred "Beecher" for Henry Ward Beecher, the Congregationalist preacher and brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe.

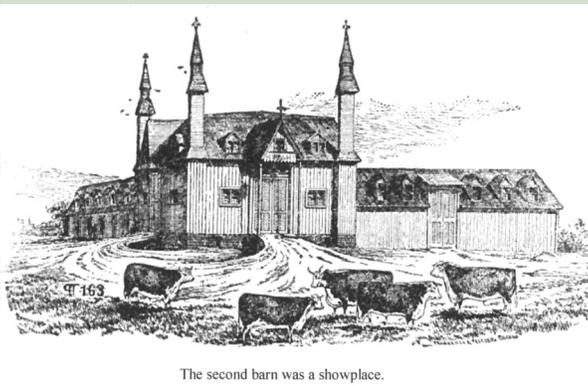
Miller finally moved onto his farm, encouraged at least in part by his doctor's advice that if he wanted relief from his respiratory problems he needed to get out of the city. Miller's colleague, William Powell, had introduced him to Hereford cattle. An experienced entrepreneur, Miller bought the best cattle he could find, entered them in fairs, including the U.S. Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Despite the fact that the judges during those years tended to be owners of Durham cattle and favor them at the shows, Miller won his share of ribbins, but he realized that the markets in the east were going to be difficult and much of his business was done in the opening west.



Miller's first stock barn had a double-headed windmill.

Miller opened a printing office on Reed Street, where he printed "Breeders' Journal", a periodical that was the "Farm Journal" of its day. The first two volumes of the "American Hereford Herd Book" were published there, but this proved a burdensome chore for Miller, and the following volumes were published by the American Hereford Association.

After two magnificent barns burned, Miller sold his herd to John V. Farwell, and moved to DeFuniak, Florida. He died on March 15, 1900, after a fall on a sidewalk. He is buried at Graceland Cemetery.



The second barn was a showplace.



*To learn more about Beecher's history visit the
Beecher Depot Museum located at 620 Reed Street
(Open 10 a.m. -12 p.m. Saturday mornings or by appointment)
Call the Village Hall for further info.*



What You Can Do for Water Quality: Spring Yardwork That's Stream-Friendly

Spring is finally here and many people are longing for green grass and the warm smell of fresh earth. Along with spring, of course, comes yardwork. This year, take some steps that protect your local stream.

Contain Your Yard "Waste"

Grass clippings, leaves, and other yard "waste" cause problems when they wash into streams. Decomposing in the stream, yard waste robs fish and other aquatic life of oxygen, and releases nutrients that feed aquatic weed growth. Keep yard waste out of the streams by mowing often enough so you don't have to rake grass clippings. If you must rake, compost the clippings, along with your leaves and organic kitchen waste, and use the mulch around the yard. Avoid placing yard waste, including the ashes from burn piles, in roadside ditches where it can wash directly into the lakes.



Erosion fills the lakes with sediment. Disturb no more ground than necessary for a construction project, and try to preserve existing vegetation. Seed bare soil and cover it with a mulch as soon as possible to minimize erosion. And don't overlook landscaping with native plants. Plants stabilize soil and offer an excellent way to use your compost. Homeowners with waterfront property can grow a "buffer strip" of dense, native plants along the water's edge to stabilize their shoreline. Native plants can save you time because they often need less care than traditional species, and usually require little or no pesticides and fertilizers to stay healthy – a bonus for water quality.

Use Pesticides and Fertilizers Sparingly



The adage "more-is-better" doesn't apply for pesticides and fertilizers. Read the label carefully before using these products. Applying too much, or at the wrong time, threatens lake quality and wastes your money. It only takes a moderate rain to wash improperly applied pesticides and fertilizers into roadside ditches that drain directly to the lakes.

For fertilizers, early October or late May are good times to treat your lawn. Early spring applications promote more top (blade) growth than root growth and shallow roots can't sustain lawns through dry spells or harsh winters. The best times for pesticide use vary, depending on the pest. Again, make sure you read the label first.

(Source: University of Wisconsin Extension)

ALL AUTOMOTIVE
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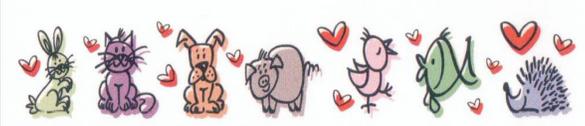
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VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Fall of 2016:

- ✓ Approved an amended PUD pertaining to architectural requirements in the Nantucket Cove Subdivision to transition from Montalbano Homes design to the Olthof Homes design.
- ✓ Adopted a capital asset policy for depreciation of Village equipment and buildings.
- ✓ Approved the appointment of Denis Tatgenhorst as Code Enforcement Officer, Emergency Management Agency Director and Director of Community Policing.
- ✓ Held moments of silence in remembrance of the passing of Leroy Buck and Paul Lohmann, both former Village Presidents and Village Trustees.
- ✓ Approved a special use permit for a digital sign for the Beecher Fire Protection District, at 711 Penfield Street.
- ✓ Approved the appointments of Mike Lau replacing Joe Gardner on the Fourth of July Commission and Rose Gianetti to replace Jody Cook on the Youth Commission.
- ✓ Adopted an ordinance further restricting the number of liquor licenses available in the Village.
- ✓ Accepted the transfer of an outlot from the Hunters Chase West HOA and acceptance of approximately \$10,000 in escrow for the maintenance of the outlot.
- ✓ Approved a contract in the amount of \$75,000 for the design and bid letting of the Penfield Street Bridge over Trim Creek which is planned for reconstruction using federal funds in 2020.
- ✓ Adopted a tax levy for 2016 collectible in 2017 with no increase to the operating levies.
- ✓ Approved the replacement of the HVAC unit on the Village Hall at 625 Dixie in the amount not to exceed \$12,000.

Continued on next page



THANK YOU to Ron Kuhlman for serving 20 years as Trustee and Gayle Ahrendt for 14 years as Trustee on the Village Board. Your hard work and dedication is appreciated!

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BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

- ✓ Approved a \$1,500 contract with HR Green to conduct a mandated federal register bridge inspection on the structure located on Cardinal Creek Boulevard over Trim Creek.
- ✓ Approved an ordinance authorizing the refinancing of the 2009 General Obligation Bonds for new public works facility at 30200 Cardinal Creek Boulevard in the amount of \$1,050,000 which will result in lower tax levies in the future and an overall savings to taxpayers of \$84,000. The interest rates on the bonds were reduced from 5.25% to 2.60%. The bonds were competitively purchased by Chase Bank due to the Village AA+ rating from Standard and Poors.
- ✓ Approved an intergovernmental agreement with 30 other local governments creating the Laraway Communications Center as a result of the new state law requiring consolidation of dispatch centers. Will County is providing the space for the new center in its new Sheriff's facility. This consolidation should result in lower fees charged to the Village for dispatching service in the future.
- ✓ Adopted a five year financial plan for FY 17/18 through FY 21/22. This plan is available for review on the Village's website.
- ✓ Authorized a 20 year loan agreement with the IEPA at an interest rate of 1.82% and awarded a bid to Brandt Excavating in the amount of \$1,050,465.89 for the replacement of watermains on Penfield from Reed to Dixie and on Birch south of Penfield and Elm Street east of Catalpa. Work cannot begin until the IEPA approves the loan and the bid.
- ✓ Approved a four year collective bargaining agreement with IUOE Local 399 for Village clerical workers.
- ✓ Approved a bid from Heritage F/S as recommended by the Intergovernmental Fuel Committee to provide a fixed price for one year of unleaded fuel at \$2.08 per gallon and diesel fuel at \$2.173 per gallon. This fuel is also used by the School District, Fire District, and the Township.
- ✓ Learned that IDOT is planning to pave the shoulders and add rumble strips along Route #1 both north and south of town. Work is expected to start this Summer.
- ✓ Approved a marketing partnership with the Will County Forest Preserve at Goodenow Grove.
- ✓ Approved an intergovernmental agreement for membership in the Will County Emergency Services Mutual Aid Association.

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 WPAL Channel 4 or on You Tube.





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SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Every Dollar Spent in Town provides 2 cents for Village Services



Yes it is true that Beecher often has the cheapest gasoline in the area. But did you realize that for every dollar you spend in Beecher either at the gas station or the hardware store, grocery store or one of our fine eating establishments will generate 2 cents in local sales tax used to fund road repairs, police protection, and even leaf pick-up? It may not sound like much, but it does generate over \$400,000 each year for the Village! So support Beecher businesses! They are helping to keep our taxes lower!

VILLAGE WELCOMES FOUR NEW BUSINESSES

Four new businesses opened in Beecher in the last six months: R.P. Lumber at 800 W. Church Road, Sophia's Cafe' at 755 Penfield, Sit n Bull Saloon at 614 Gould Street, and Lacey's Place at 1121 Dixie Highway. Beecher Manor Nursing Home is almost nearing completion of the addition to its facility at 1201 Dixie Highway. The Village is excited to have these new businesses in our community and we wish them great success as we do all our local businesses!

BABY SAFE HAVEN LOCATIONS IN BEECHER

Did you know that the Beecher Police Station at 724 Penfield Street and the Beecher Fire Station at 711 Penfield Street are both Baby Safe Haven locations? Safe Havens are designated hospitals, emergency care facilities, police stations, and staffed fire stations where you can bring a newborn as an alternative to abandonment for Illinois parents who cannot cope with a newborn baby. You can hand your newborn (30 days old or younger) to personnel at any designated facility and the baby will be taken to a hospital and will be placed for adoption if the parents do not return within 60 days and claim parental rights. No one will ask your name and your baby will get medical care and be adopted to a loving family. For more information visit <http://saveabandonedbabies.org/>



BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



The Beecher Beautification Commission is always looking for volunteers to plant flower beds in the Spring and to help maintain them throughout the summer months. If interested, please leave your name and phone number with the Village Hall and a member of the Commission will contact you. The Beautification Commission takes pride in our community by planting flowers in Depot Park, the Village Hall, Police Station, the flower boxes on the Penfield and Miller Street bridges and in other locations in the Village. Contact the Village Hall if you'd like to help!

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VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2017 brush collection program began on April 3rd. Brush pick-up will occur every Monday and will continue through November. To ensure your brush is collected by the Village, you are asked to follow the rules below:

1. Brush is to be placed out to the roadside by 7:30 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 or mulch mixed with brush WILL NOT BE PICKED UP. Grass clippings, leaves and mulch should be disposed of in yard waste bags except in the fall when the Village collects leaves with a leaf machine.
3. 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 private resident or contractor will not 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. Any questions about this program should be directed to the Village Hall. Thank you for your cooperation!



YARD WASTE BAGS

Collection of yard waste bags by Homewood/Star/A&J Disposal resumed April 3rd. Yard waste bags may be placed at the curb for regular Monday pick-up until the end of November. Yard waste bags should not be placed out to the curb for pick-up prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before pick-up. Residents must use bags with the Homewood/Star/A&J Disposal logo on them or purchase a sticker to put on other brands of yard waste bags. 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. The Village Hall charges \$2.75 per bag and \$2.40 per sticker. Yard waste bags without the Homewood/Star/A&J Disposal logo/sticker will not be picked up.



MOSQUITO CONTROL PROGRAM

It's that time of the year again! The Public Works Department will begin spraying for mosquitos on Thursday evenings beginning at the end of April. Spraying will begin around dusk and be completed by around 1:00 a.m. Spraying can only be conducted when the weather conditions meet certain criteria. Temperature, wind speed, and precipitation may prevent a spraying on Thursday evening. If this is the case, spraying may be delayed until Friday evening or pushed ahead to Wednesday evening. Weekly spraying will continue through September unless mosquito counts are low.

During mosquito spraying we want to remind you to keep children away from the spray fog cloud directly behind our spray trucks. If you have asthma or any other type of breathing problems, you may want to remain inside with doors and windows closed during application in your area. It is important to note that the chemicals used for the Village's mosquito program are non-toxic to humans and animals.

ANNUAL WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE ON MAY WATER BILLING AND ANNUAL REFUSE RATE INCREASE ON JULY WATER BILLING



The annual water and sewer rate increase will be reflected on the May 2017 water bill. Water rates will be increased by 10 cents per thousand gallons and sewer rates by 10 cents per thousand gallons effective March 1st. These annual increases were previously implemented to keep up with rising costs for chemicals, testing supplies, electric, natural gas and other materials needed for keeping the water and sewer systems running. The overall increase for a resident who uses 8,000 gallons or less of water will be \$1.60 per billing period.

If you live in one of the newer subdivisions and pay a Lift Station (LS) charge on your water bill, the lift station charge will also increase by 2 cents per thousand gallons of water used.

An annual refuse rate increase will be reflected on the July 2017 water bill. The refuse rate will increase by \$1.00 per billing. In March of 2013 the Village negotiated a new 10-year contract with Star/Homewood Disposal for refuse and recycling collection services. These annual increases are necessary to keep up with rising landfill tipping fees, maintenance, and manpower costs associated with these services. However, entering into a 10-year agreement has enabled us to lock into fixed rates even if costs increase further than anticipated.



2017 BEECHER FOURTH OF JULY FESTIVAL

The Fourth of July this year falls on a Tuesday. As a result, the festival will run for five days beginning on Friday, June 30th. To give the many volunteers some time off during the festival, the Beecher Fourth of July Commission has decided to open a little later on Saturday and Sunday. Please be aware of this new schedule for 2017.

The following schedule of events is tentative and subject to change. However, the Commission would like to release the current program to the residents so you can plan your weekend.

Friday, June 30th - 6 pm to Midnight

- 5:45 pm - Kiddie and pet parade (line-up at 5:30 pm)
- 6-10 pm - \$20 Wrist bands
- 6-10 pm - Bingo
- 7:45 pm - 11 pm - Maggie Speaks on main stage
- 11 pm - Early bird car drawing

Saturday, July 1st - 3 pm to Midnight

- 3-7 pm - \$20 Wrist bands
- 3-10 pm - Bingo
- 3-6 pm - Prairie 4-H Farm Expo
- 7:30-11 pm - Frank Paul on main stage
- 11 pm - Early bird car drawing

Sunday, July 2nd - 3 pm to 10 pm

- 3-7 pm - \$20 Wrist bands
- 3-10 pm - Bingo
- 3-6 pm - Prairie 4-H Farm Expo
- 4-7 pm - Chamber of Commerce Pork Chop Dinner
- 3-5 pm - Nevery Brothers on main stage
- 7:30-11 pm - Dixie Crush on main stage
- 11 pm - Early bird car drawing



Monday, July 3rd - 6 pm to Midnight

- 6-10 pm - \$20 Wrist bands
- 6-10 pm - Bingo
- 7:30-11 pm - ARRA on main stage
- 11 pm - Early bird car drawing

Tuesday, July 4th - 12 Noon to Midnight

- 7-7:50 am - Lions Club 5K Run/Walk Registration
- 8:15 am - Lions Club 5K Run/Walk begins
- 12 pm - Carnival and car stand open
(all other stands open after parade)
- 2-3:30 pm - Parade line-up and registration
- 3 pm - Float judging
- 4 pm - Parade
- 6 pm -10 pm - Bingo
- 7:30 -11 pm - Kingfish on main stage
- 9:30 pm - Fireworks
- 11 pm - Car drawing



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Village Hall Hours

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Village Hall Phone

946-2261

Emergency Police & Fire
9-1-1

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UPCOMING EVENTS



Youth Commission Kentucky Derby Fundraiser
• **May 6th at Cardinal Creek**

Household Hazardous Waste & Electronics Drop-Off Event
• **Saturday, May 6th from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Washington Township Center**

Chamber of Commerce Car Cruise Nights
1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings from June thru September

Bicycle Rodeo • June 3rd in Firemen's Park

Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days • June 9-10

4th of July Celebration • June 30 - July 4 in Firemen's Park

Beecher Lions Club Annual Summerfest • August 5th in Firemen's Park