



The Beecher Bulletin

“Your Village Newsletter”



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ENTIRE VILLAGE TO RECEIVE CURBSIDE LEAF COLLECTION THIS YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 11TH This Will Be in Lieu Of Free Yard Waste Bag Distribution

As a cost cutting measure, the Beecher Village Board decided to end the free yard waste bag distribution program effective this year. In lieu of free yard waste bags, the entire Village will now be provided with curbside leaf collection. Leaves raked in rows along the curbside are picked up by a large vacuum machine used by Public Works crews on a weekly basis until the day before Thanksgiving. When placing leaves along the curb for pickup, it is asked that these simple rules be followed to ensure that your leaves will be picked up:

- ✓ Leaves should be placed in a pile or row in the parkway between the sidewalk and curb as near to the street as possible. In areas without curbs, leaves should be placed on the grass or parkway at the edge of the street.
- ✓ Do not mix grass, twigs, brush or pet waste with the leaves or it will not be picked up.
- ✓ Leaves must be raked; not mulched (mulched leaves should be placed in yard waste bags which will be collected by Star Disposal).
- ✓ Do not rake leaves onto the street or into storm ditches. (It doesn't take many leaves to plug the storm drains and cause flooding.)
- ✓ The leaf machine will make at least one pass per week down each street in the Village.
- ✓ There are no special pick-ups.



Village of Beecher

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Paul Lohmann
President

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Julie Riechers
Code Enforcement Off.



WHO RECEIVES THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER? Bulk Mail Delivery Can Cause Some Confusion

Approximately 650 Village newsletters are mailed to addresses outside the Village limits. These locations are primarily in Pheasant Lake Estates in Crete Township and rural areas north and west of town. “Why do I receive a newsletter when I am not in the Village?” is a common question we receive, and requires a fair answer.

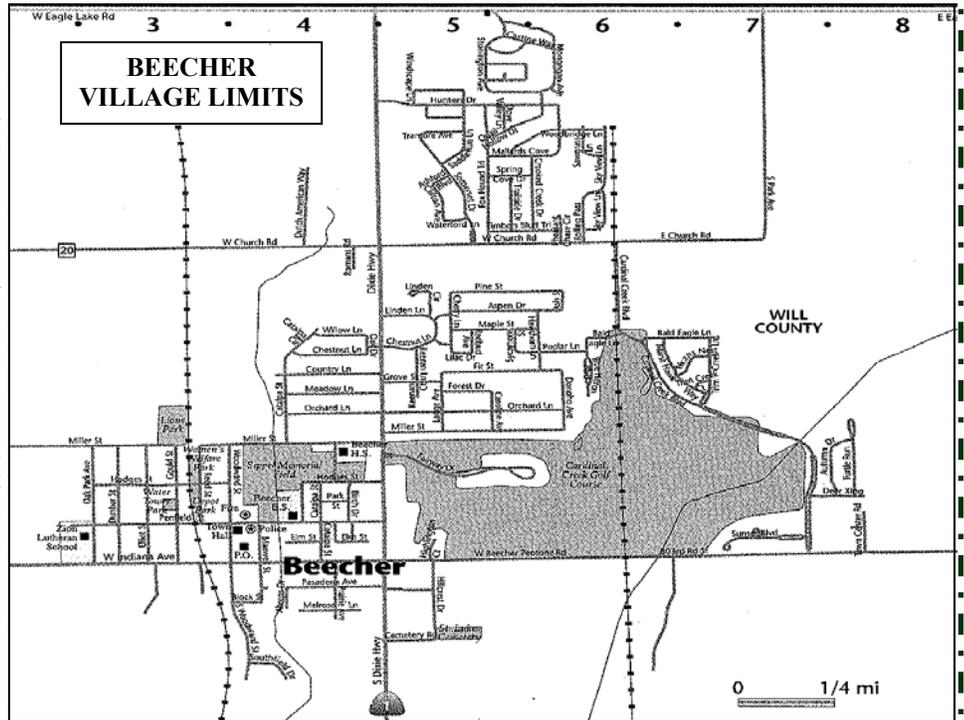
In order to utilize the Village’s bulk mailing rate which is less expensive and does not require the use of specific addresses for mailing, the Village has to utilize three of the five rural mailing routes in the Beecher postal system to cover all of the community cluster boxes and apartment units in the Village. In these three routes, there are 1,583 addresses. There are also 972 post office box deliveries for a total of 2,555 total newsletter mailings. There are approximately 1,900 residences in the Village so about 650 rural addresses are receiving the Village newsletter.

In order to mail only to Village households, the newsletters would have to be addressed specifically. This would require the placing of labels on each newsletter by hand and

Continued from Page 1

the payment of a first class postage rate. Also, tenants of rental homes and apartment dwellers would not receive the newsletter. Therefore, it is less expensive and less time consuming to bulk mail the newsletters to all three rural routes than to go through the painstaking effort of mailing them only to Village addresses. Also, the newsletter is now paid for by local merchant advertising so no tax money is used in the production and mailing of the newsletter. Those that do not live in the Village and receive the newsletter can take advantage of the information provided and the coupons and specials provided by our local merchants.

Washington Township also produces a newsletter twice each year and this newsletter will be mailed to you shortly. The Township has the same problem with bulk mailing to Beecher addresses in Crete Township. For the same reasons, some in Crete Township, such as Pheasant Lake Estates, will receive the Washington Township newsletter. However, the bulk mail delivery is necessary to ensure that all those in Washington Township can receive the newsletter by mail.



DON'T PAY LATE FEES! — The Village offers “Autodraft” to pay your water bill. The water bill amount will be deducted from your bank account on the due date each billing period. Download an Autodraft form from our website or contact the Village Hall for a form (no convenience fees apply for Autodraft);

OR

Pay your water bill online using “EPAY”. Go to www.villageofbeecher.org and click on EPAY located on the right side of the page (convenience fee applies with EPAY).

BEECHER MEMORIAL TREE FUND

Fall is a good time of year to consider planting a memorial tree to remember a special person, date or occasion. A tree can be planted in any of our parks for a donation and the person’s name or occasion will be engraved on a plaque in the Village Hall. The names will be read each year at our Arbor Day Tree Planting ceremony. It is a living tribute that stays green for many years to come. We have 13 donors on our memorial tree plaque at this time. Please contact the Village Hall at 946-2261 if you would like a memorial tree.



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PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR A VETERAN'S MEMORIAL
Ehler's Bequest Committee Approves Design and Begins Fundraising

In 2008 Garneta Ehlers, a life-long Village resident and local banker, passed away. Her estate provided \$50,000 to the Village of Beecher for any type of capital improvement so designated. The Village President appointed a committee of local residents to determine how to use the \$50,000 to honor Ms. Ehlers and provide an enduring gift to the community. The decision was made that a veteran's memorial was the proper use of the funds, and several months were spent selecting the site and the design of the memorial. Mike Stanula was hired to take the thoughts of the committee members and compile them into a unique monument to honor our veterans. The design shown above is the one that has been approved for construction in the north end of Depot Park at Hodges and Reed Street.

This monument is dedicated to all veterans of the Beecher community. The focal point of the monument is one of the first symbols of the United States, the five pointed military star representing the five branches of the United States Armed Forces: the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. The star itself is constructed of reflective materials which will mirror the surrounding area, the sky above, and all those who peer into it. The veteran will see his own face in the memorial as a reflection of his service to his country. The reflection of the heavens above also mirror those who have given their lives for their country or who have served and passed away. The star rests on a black field as if in the night sky, being ever watchful for any threat to democracy and freedom. "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance", a statement of Thomas Jefferson which will be inscribed around the star. Construction of the memorial is expected to begin this Spring and a dedication of the memorial is planned for September 11, 2011.

The cost to complete the project is estimated to be \$85,000, which means that \$35,000 will need to be raised to construct the monument as shown. Fund raising efforts will soon begin. If you wish to donate toward this project, you can make your tax-deductible donation to the Veteran's Memorial in care of the Village of Beecher. More details will be forthcoming.



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29412 S. Dixie Hwy
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President
 Dave Miramontes

Mon-Fri 7:30-5:00
 Sat 7:30-3:00



VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Spring of 2010:

- Authorized a motion eliminating the free yardwaste bag distribution program and authorizing leaf collection for the entire Village beginning in the Fall of 2010.
- Authorized a deferral of payment of water and sewer tap-in fees for all building permits issued in 2010 until the certificate of occupancy is requested or until September 1, 2011, whichever occurs first.
- Approved a resolution opposing any reduction in payments by the State to the local government distributive fund.
- Approved a bid in the amount of \$597,512.31 to Iroquois Paving of Watseka for the paving of Church Road east, Eagle Lake Road east, Nantucket Cove Subdivision and The Preserve at Cardinal Creek Subdivision. All of the funding for this project with the exception of Church Road east is being paid for by developer escrow funds.
- Approved an application for a \$100,000 Community Development Block Grant to replace watermain on Maxwell Street from Indiana Avenue to Penfield Street. It was later learned that the Village would not be receiving this grant.
- Approved an ordinance authorizing a reimbursement of a portion of the Village's property tax for the addition of Dutch American Foods, as long as such addition is no less than 40,000 square feet.
- Approved a resolution requesting inclusion of the Illiana Expressway on a list of needed projects in the GoTo 2040 Plan being put together by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.
- Approved an ordinance requiring Basset (Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education Training) for bartenders and employees who serve alcohol in the Village.
- Approved a budget and appropriation ordinance for Fiscal Year 2010/2011 without the use of any cash reserves for operations. Copies of the budget are available on the Village's website, www.villageofbeecher.org.
- Approved an amendment to an original bid with Iroquois Paving of Watseka, Illinois, to include the resurfacing of Catalpa Street from Miller to Country Lane, and Hodges Street from Dixie Highway to Catalpa Street at a cost of \$82,089.01, with funds being provided by the Public Infrastructure Account or ½% sales tax.

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Board meeting highlights continued

- Approved the vacation of an easement for an abandoned storm sewer between lots 15 and 16 of the Trim Creek Industrial Park. This will allow for the addition of the Dutch American Foods industrial building.
- Tabled a request to allow a residential use in the first floor of a commercial building in the historic downtown business district. The petitioner, Vic Reato, 759 Penfield Street, had requested that the Village consider amending its ordinance allowing for residential uses in commercial districts as a special use, so that he could apply for a special use permit for an apartment on the first floor at 759 Penfield Street.
- Approved a special Board meeting to be held on July 26, 2010 for the purposes of discussing the future of the old downtown business district. This meeting was held with several of the downtown business owners in attendance. Although there were many discussions and ideas, an exact plan was not specifically considered.
- Approved a resolution adopting a debt policy for the Village.
- Approved a resolution opposing a new 9-1-1 dispatch center and advocating for the fair distribution of 9-1-1 funds throughout the county. This resolution is in response to the 9-1-1 Board's plan to build a \$43 million facility, using \$10 million it had in reserves, and borrowing funds to buy the land and complete the project.
- Approved a bid in the amount of \$250,000 to Iroquois Paving of Watseka, Illinois to complete patch repairs on Illinois Route #1 from Pasadena to Church Road contingent on the State of Illinois reimbursing the Village for 100% share of the project.
- Approved a motion accepting the public improvements in Hunter's Chase West Subdivision and authorizing the acceptance of a one-year warranty bond.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the Village's membership in the Illinois Public Benefits Cooperative as a subsidiary of the Eastern Will County Council of Mayors. This change will allow the Village to self-fund a portion of its health insurance costs providing for long-term savings to the Village.
- Approved an ordinance amending the zoning code to address wind generating devices, wind generating systems and wind farms.
- Presented Lifesaving Awards to Beecher Police Officer Roger Sipple and Corporal Bill Little for their assistance in saving the life of a Village resident. Presented Beecher Police Corporal Jeff Dopke with a Departmental Commendation Medal for his dedication and excellence for investigating and utilizing the Will-Grundy Joint Crimes Task Force to solve an attempted murder case in the Village.
- Approved the purchase of items at the Beatty Lumber inventory public auction for use by the Public Works department for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

	<p>Goldie's Auto Body Mechanical & Towing</p>
<p>1369 Dutch American Way Beecher, IL 60401 goldiesautobody@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Free Pick Up & Delivery 24 Hour Towing</p> <p>Paul Goldrick President</p> <p>Phone (708) 946-3758 Fax # (708) 946-1370 Cell (708) 516-2594</p>

The Beecher Village Board meets regularly on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington Township Center, located at 30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL. These meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are also televised on Comcast Cable, Channel 4, WPAL. Check the cable channel line-up for the exact times of the broadcasts.



HEALTHY HOUSEHOLD HABITS FOR CLEAN WATER

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to **minimize** the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local waterbody.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up **spilled fluids** with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand, and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- **Recycle** used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



Storm drains connect to waterbodies! *** Remember: Only rain down the drain!**

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or www.epa.gov/nps

To report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Beecher at (708) 946-2261.



WINTER WEATHER IS APPROACHING

Be Aware of Street Parking Regulations

With winter approaching, the Village wants to remind residents that for a period of twenty-four (24) hours after a snowfall of two inches or more, it is illegal to park on any residential Village street or in any business district public parking space commonly maintained by the Village between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. This includes curbed streets and driving lanes but does not include parkways maintained by residents.

This regulation gives the Public Works crews the ability to adequately clear the streets and parking areas of snow and ice. Violators of this ordinance are issued a ticket by the Police Department either before or during snow removal operations. The Village reserves the right to tow parked vehicles at any time which cause a traffic safety hazard as a result of heavy snowfalls. It is also illegal to deposit snow onto public streets. When clearing your driveway, direct the snow into the yard and not the street. This allows Public Works to keep the streets clear for vehicular traffic for safety reasons.



DOG TAGS GO ON SALE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

Dog tags go on sale at the Village Hall on Wednesday, December 1st. The price is \$10 per dog and the deadline for purchase is March 15, 2011. The Village Hall will need to know the dog's name, breed, color and date of last rabies vaccination. Dog tag fees are used to pay for the services provided by Dr. McKay and Beecher Veterinary Clinic for picking up, feeding and boarding stray animals and lost pets.



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GARBAGE PICK-UP RULES

Residential garbage collection in the Village is conducted by Star Disposal 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. Refuse is to be placed in plastic bags inside a 20-30 gallon container with a close fitting cover. This allows the refuse hauler to easily lift the container into the truck and keep animals and the wind from making a mess of your garbage. **The Village has an ordinance that garbage and yard waste bags cannot be placed at the curb for pick-up prior to 5:00 p.m. the evening before collection day. Those that put out garbage or yard waste bags before 5:00 p.m. the day before pick-up will be ticketed.** Cans should be removed from the curb and put away by the end of collection day. Also, one bulk item is allowed each week for pick-up such as a washer, couch, etc. If you have more than one bulk item which you want collected, please contact Star Disposal directly at 748-8381 to arrange for a special pick-up.

NOTE: THE LAST DAY STAR DISPOSAL WILL PICK-UP YARDWASTE BAGS IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH.

VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER

Make Sure You Follow the Rules so Your Brush gets Picked Up



Beginning in the Spring of 2010 the Village changed the brush collection program to a bi-weekly basis due to budget cuts. Brush pick-up occurs every other Monday on the same day that recycling is picked up by Star Disposal. This program will continue as a convenience to residents and to help keep the community looking well-groomed. Since the chipper cannot grind up vines and bush clippings, residents are required to place them in yard waste bags. Tree limbs from routine trimming or storm damage can be placed on the parkway for the brush chipper every other Monday (on recycling day) for pick-up, but not entire trees with trunks, branches exceeding 6" in diameter or bushes with root balls. If a residence violates these rules, the items will not be picked up and a notice will be placed on the front door of the home.

Brush pick-up will continue through November, and begin again in April, 2011. Brush will not be picked up during the Winter months unless there is a storm and then the crews will go out on an as-needed basis.

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS



Trick-or-Treat hours are 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, October 31st

The Lions Club Annual Weenie Roast will begin in the Fire Station parking lot at 6 p.m. on Halloween.

In addition to the Weenie Roast, the *Beecher Lions Club* will be hosting a pumpkin smash & hayride in Firemen's Park (673 Penfield Street) on Sunday, October 31st from 6-8 p.m.

Have Fun & be safe! **** Check candy before eating



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Village Hall Hours

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Village Hall Phone

946-2261

Emergency Police & Fire
9-1-1

Police Non Emergency:
946-2341

Fire Non Emergency:
946-6585

**RESIDENT
BEECHER, IL 60401**

Web Site: www.villageofbeecheer.org
E-Mail: clerk@villageofbeecheer.org



MONEY SAVING COUPONS INSIDE!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Chamber of Commerce Festival of Lights Parade • Saturday, December 4th

**Breakfast with Santa • Sunday, December 5th beginning at 8 a.m.
at Cardinal Creek Golf Course (Call Golf Course at 946-2800 for reservations)**

Holiday House Walk • Sunday, December 5th (see below)

BEECHER'S 7TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOUSE WALK
Sunday, December 5, 2010 * 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.





The Beecher Beautification Commission will be holding the 7th Annual Holiday House walk on Sunday, December 5th. The house walk will begin at First National Bank of Grant Park, Beecher Branch where you will be able to purchase raffle tickets for a special raffle, holiday gift baskets and a 50/50 raffle. Refreshments will also be available. **Tickets are \$10 each** and may be purchased in advance at the Village Hall, First National Bank of Grant Park, First Community Bank & Trust, any Beautification Commission member or that day at First National Bank of Grant Park. The house walk is open to those 12 years of age and older. (First National Bank of Grant Park is located at 951 Dixie Highway.)