



The Beecher Bulletin

“Your Village Newsletter”



Inside this issue:

Board Meeting Highlights	4,5
Cancer Memorial	3
Emerald Ash Borer	7
4th of July Schedule	2
Garbage/Yard Waste Rules	7
Lawn Care	6
Memorial Trees	7
Mosquito Control Program	6
Parents Night Out Fundraiser	2
Upcoming Events	8
Water/Sewer Rate Increase	6

VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM



The 2013 brush collection program began on April 8th. Brush pick-up will occur every other Monday on the same day that recycling is picked up by Star Disposal 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. All brush should be placed to the front of the property (next to the road - but not on the road) for pick-up.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 5-Minute rule applies: A brush pile should take no longer than 5 minutes for Public Works to pick up.

These rules are set in place to provide an efficient brush collection program for Village residents. Any questions about this program should be directed to the Village Hall. Thank you for your cooperation!

Village of Beecher

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Julie Riechers
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THE VILLAGE RELIES ON THE STATE OF IL FOR FUNDS

37% of Village's General Fund Revenue Controlled by the State

Many residents do not realize that \$848,830 of the Village’s proposed \$2,298,510 budget for the General Fund in Fiscal Year 2013 comes directly from the State of Illinois in the form of the local income tax and local sales taxes. Since the State has been in fiscal stress, payments to the Village have been delayed by several months requiring the Village to use cash reserves at times to cover the delay. This is a typical practice of the State and when the economy and the State’s cash flow improves catch-up payments are made. At this time, the State is about four months behind in its payments to the Village.

However, there is a more disturbing trend brewing in Springfield. The Governor’s budget proposes using a portion of the local income tax to meet the State’s needs. This will be a direct cut to the Village resulting in further local budget cuts. A second proposal which did pass the General Assembly is allowing the State to borrow off local sales tax receipts to fund certain departments. The State has “promised” to pay this back.

Continued on Page 3

4th OF JULY CELEBRATION JUST MONTHS AWAY!

This Year's Celebration Runs from Wednesday, July 3rd - Saturday, July 6th



The Commission is already gearing up and is very excited about this year's celebration. On Wednesday evening July 3rd the festivities will kick off with the Kid and Pet Parade at 5:45 p.m., the park will open at 6 p.m. with a wrist band night for the carnival and of course the Beecher reunion night in the beer stand. Come see old friends you may only get to see once each year! On Thursday the 4th of July the parade is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. with line-up beginning at 2:00 p.m. This year's fireworks show will be the largest ever in Beecher's history and will begin at 9:30 p.m. "Maggie Speaks" takes the main stage on Friday night, July 5th and Family Day will be on Saturday, July 6th beginning at noon. \$20 wrist bands will also be available in the carnival and there will be special entertainment for the kids. The Chamber of Commerce Pork Chop Dinner is slated for 4-7 p.m. and the car drawing will be held at 11 p.m. Saturday night. This year's car giveaway is a 2013 Chevy Camaro!

Wednesday, July 3rd - 6 pm to midnight

- 5:15 pm - Line-up for Kid and Pet Parade at Zion Lutheran Church parking lot
- 5:45 pm - Kid and Pet Parade
- 6-10 pm - Carnival wrist bands \$20
- 7 pm - "Black Cadillac" on main stage
- 11 pm - \$250 Early bird car drawing

Thursday, July 4th - 7 am to midnight

- 7 am - 5K run
- Noon - Carnival and all stands except beer open
- 3 pm - Beer stand opens
- 2-3:30 pm - Parade line-up and registration
- 3 pm - Float judging
- 4 pm - Parade
- 7 pm - "Silhouettes" on main stage
- 9:30 pm - Fireworks
- 11 pm - \$250 Early bird car drawing

Friday, July 5th - 6 pm to midnight

- 7 pm - "Maggie Speaks" on main stage
- 6-10 pm - Carnival wrist bands \$20
- 11 pm - \$250 Early bird car drawing

Saturday, July 6th - 12 noon to midnight

FAMILY DAY

- Noon-4 pm - Carnival wrist bands \$20
- 1 pm - Bean bag tournament
- 2-5 pm - "Greg Schneider Band" on main stage
- 4-7 pm - Chamber of Commerce pork chop dinner
- 7 pm - "Hat Guys" on main stage
- 11 pm - Raffle for 2013 Chevy Camaro

Like us on Facebook at:

<http://www.facebook.com/beecher4thofjulyfestival>

April 13th Parents Night Out Fundraiser

The Beecher Youth Commission will be hosting its first annual Parent's Night Out Fundraiser on Saturday, April 13th. In order to continue to provide outstanding free events for Beecher's youth, please show your support by purchasing a ticket or two. This fundraiser is not just limited to Beecher residents so invite your friends to attend!



The event will take place at the Beecher Amvet Hall located at 532 Gould Street. The cost of a ticket is \$25 and the fun will begin at 7:00 pm. Come enjoy an evening of drinks and entertainment. Beer, wine and soda, along with appetizers, are included in the cost of admission. Entertainment will be provided by an amazing cover band, Kingfish. All proceeds will go to providing more positive and fun experiences for the youth of Beecher. We hope to see you there!

Please visit our website at www.villageofbeecher.org/youthcommission for more information, or call Elizabeth Delgado at 946-2115.

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VILLAGE SUPPORTS CREATION OF CANCER MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Commission's Aim is to Build a "Ribbon of Hope" Memorial in Firemen's Park

The Village was approached by several eager volunteers led by Dean Bettenhausen of "Tractors for a Cure" wishing to establish a memorial for cancer victims. The design of the memorial has been named "The Ribbon of Hope", featuring the universal symbol for cancer awareness. This group has requested formal recognition by the Village as a Commission, giving it the ability to raise funds tax-free and to construct the memorial in Firemen's Park, which is on Village-owned property. The location selected is the far northwest corner of the park behind the Firemen's Ballfield #3 backstop along Miller Street. This location allows for handicapped accessibility and close proximity to parking, and does not impede on the other uses in the park.

This Commission is just getting started in its work, and will soon begin a fund drive for the memorial, which will be the first of its kind in the State of Illinois. Funding for this memorial will remain separate from "Tractors for a Cure," a fund-raiser held exclusively for the American Cancer Society. For more information on how you can become involved in this project and how to donate toward the memorial, please contact Dean Bettenhausen at 243-8877.



Village Relies on State of IL - Continued from Page 1

What does revenue from the State fund? 52% of the General Fund goes toward the Police Department, and the remainder funds the Street Department, Administration, and repairs and maintenance to Village buildings. As a result of a loss in State revenue, street and building maintenance, police patrols and equipment replacement may be either reduced or deferred. Services and programs may be curtailed or eliminated. The Village does not deficit spend or fund operations with any type of debt service. The Village tries to live within its means. Loss of State revenue will make it even more difficult to continue providing services at the current level.

As an interesting side note, the Village receives \$386,000 from its 1% local sales tax. The State receives 5% in sales tax, which is five times more than what the Village collects from businesses in town or \$1,930,000. Also, the Village receives a 1/12 share of the original 3% personal income tax. The State receives 11/12 of the original 3% plus an additional 2% which was approved two years ago. The Village's share of the income tax collected from Village residents is \$383,000. Using this formula, the State would have had to receive \$6,993,580 for the Village to collect its \$383,000. Despite these large differences, the State government continues to look at what it pays to municipal government as a source of new revenue. The end result is that a Village resident will either have to pay more for the same services being provided today or tolerate a reduction in service delivery.

Phil Becker

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VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the Fall of 2012:

- ✓ Continued its work on a comprehensive amendment to the Village Code by adopting amended Chapters 1-7 of the Code and authorizing the amendments to be codified and placed on the Village's website.
- ✓ Denied a request for a 3-way stop intersection at Rolling Pass and Skyview upon recommendation of the Chief of Police.
- ✓ Authorized the purchase of a new fuel dispensing system from DRW Services in the amount of \$21,628.30 upon recommendation of the Intergovernmental Fuel Commission. This commission oversees the purchase and sale of fuel to all Beecher local governments.
- ✓ Denied a request to consider amending the zoning code to allow domestic chicken raising in residential districts.
- ✓ Approved a variance for a fence in the front yard setback at 281 Orchard Lane.
- ✓ Approved a tax levy ordinance for 2012 collectible in 2013 that froze all of the levies under the Village's control. The debt levy will decrease slightly and the Road and Bridge levy is under the jurisdiction of the Township.
- ✓ Approved an amendment to the Beecher Zoning Ordinance allowing temporary off-site business signs for one 60 day period each year.
- ✓ Approved an amendment to the Beecher Zoning Ordinance placing further definitions and criteria for special use permits for digital display signs.
- ✓ Amended the ordinance pertaining to police towing and impoundment of vehicles providing a hearing officer for appeals to the impoundment and increased the fee from \$300 to \$500.
- ✓ Approved a five year agreement with Carl Smits for the land application of the Village's leaves at \$4.00 per cubic yard with a \$2,000 annual minimum fee.
- ✓ Approved a motion supporting a locally-controlled airport authority if the South Suburban Airport is constructed.
- ✓ Approved 20 year boundary agreements with the Village of Grant Park (County Line) and the Village of Peotone (Crawford Avenue).
- ✓ Awarded a contract to Brandt Builders in the amount of \$98,373 to replace the watermain and service lines on Maxwell Street from Indiana to Penfield.

Continued on next page

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Board meeting highlights continued

- ✓ Learned that 26 year employee Bill Merritt, Wastewater Operations Manager, retired effective February 15th. Approved contracts with Baxter and Woodman to renew the license for the wastewater treatment plant at a cost of \$12,000 and the contractual operation of the plant in the amount of \$3,750 per month for 14 months on a trial basis. The Village will then analyze whether contractual operation or a full-time employee is more cost-effective.
- ✓ Approved a location at the northwest corner of Firemen's Park for the "Ribbon of Hope" cancer memorial.
- ✓ Approved a five year financial plan for the Village.
- ✓ Approved a revised personnel manual for Village employees.
- ✓ Authorized the Village Attorney to draft a letter to Phillippe Builders supporting the transfer of the Hunter's Chase West Homeowner's Association to the residents according to the covenants that were filed with the subdivision.
- ✓ Approved a road resurfacing program for 2013 which includes Elliott and Gould from Miller to Hodges, Hodges from Oak Park to Reed, and Reed from Miller to Hodges. Awarded a contract to Iroquois Paving in the amount of \$146,189.93 for the resurfacing.
- ✓ Awarded a bid to Iroquois Paving in the amount of \$73,592.96 for the replacement of pavement and base material on the two approaches to the Cardinal Creek Boulevard bridge using escrow funds posted by the developer.
- ✓ Authorized the payoff of the 2006 Motor Fuel Tax Loan in the amount of \$173,000 using \$95,000 in MFT Reserves and \$78,000 in Infrastructure Sales Tax Funds. This action will save approximately \$14,284 in interest payments.
- ✓ Purchased fuel on contract at a set price for 12 months at \$3.302 per gallon for 87 Octane unleaded fuel and \$3.687 per gallon for diesel. These prices will be paid by all Beecher local governments for fuel in the coming year.
- ✓ Authorized the solicitation of proposals for the refinancing of the 2002 water tank and booster station loan. \$701,000 in principal remains on this loan.
- ✓ Approved new parking regulations on Dutch American Way after meeting with several businesses in the industrial park.

The Village Board normally meets 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. The meetings on the fourth Mondays may be cancelled due to a lack of business. Please contact the Village Hall to check the status of these meetings. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. Meetings are televised on Comcast Cable, Channel 4, WPAL, on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Meetings are also broadcast on WPAL's YouTube Channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/WPALTV> and can be found by typing "Beecher" in the search box.





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LAWN CARE THE ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY WAY *Know Your Soil Fertility*

Leaving the grass clippings on the lawn after mowing is the best kind of fertilizer. Research has shown that recycling clippings in place reduces the need for supplemental fertilizer applications by 50% - 100%!

If you must fertilize, avoid over-fertilization by having your soil tested and following soil test recommendations. Choose a fertilizer formulation that most closely matches what the soil lacks. Slow-release fertilizers improve the chances that nutrients will remain in the root zone until the grass can use them. For additional water quality protection, use organic fertilizers if possible. Organic formulas combine the benefits of slow nutrient release with the addition of organic matter to the soil. Organic fertilizers may also help reduce some turf disease problems.

Never apply more than one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet at one time. To determine what is one pound of nitrogen, divide the first number on the fertilizer bag into 100. The result is the amount (in pounds) of fertilizer that should be applied to 1,000 square feet of lawn. Bluegrass lawns generally require three applications. Recommended application times coincide with three holidays: Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day.

To ensure best plant use of fertilizers and to reduce potential water quality problems, Illinois lawns should be fertilized between May and November. Always check the weather and avoid applying fertilizer before heavy rainstorms or during long, dry spells.



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)

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. This 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 is non toxic to humans and animals.

For further information, questions and comments about the Mosquito program please call Public Works Superintendent Bud Cowger at 946 -3636 between 8am and 4pm Monday through Friday.

ANNUAL WATER & SEWER RATE INCREASE ON MAY WATER BILLING



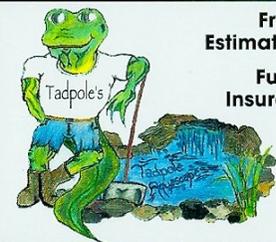
The annual water and sewer rate increase will be reflected on the May 2013 water bill. Water rates will be increased by 10 cents per thousand gallons and sewer rates by 10 cents per thousand gallons effective March 1st. These annual increases were previously implemented to keep up with rising costs for chemicals, testing supplies, electric, natural gas and other things 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.

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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. **The Village of Beecher 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 may be ticketed.** All containers must be removed from the Village parkway within 24 hours of the pick-up time. Garbage should be placed in a container with a close-fitting cover so trash cannot blow around.



YARD WASTE BAGS

Collection of yard waste bags by Homewood/Star/A&J Disposal resumed April 1st. 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 \$2.50 per bag and \$2.05 per sticker. Yard waste bags without the Homewood/Star/A&J Disposal logo will not be picked up.



BEECHER TREE FOUNDATION MEMORIAL TREES



Since the Beecher Tree Foundation's inception in 2002, some residents have decided to plant a memorial tree to remember a special person, date or occasion. These trees have been planted in one of our parks for a donation and the person's name or occasion has been engraved on a plaque in the Village Hall. A tree is a living tribute that stays green for many years to come. The following 15 donors are currently listed on our memorial tree plaque: Byron W. Hunte, by Marguerite and Pam Hunte; In memory of Ed Reiman; Brad and Christine Coats; Paul and Sandy Lohmann; F.F. Bernard F. McKay; In memory of Bob Williamson; In memory of Roger Buckner; In memory of Gary Wiggerhauser; Lee and Sally Meyers; In memory of Joan Wehling; In memory of Wayne Nelson, by wife Ruth and family; In memory of Bill Kass, by wife Barb; In memory of Bill Kass, by family and friends; In memory of Abigeal Noel Ogle, by friends and family; In memory of Valerie Basile, loving wife and mother.

Please contact the Ron Kuhlman at the Village Hall at 946-2261 if you would be interested in purchasing a memorial tree.

EMERALD ASH BORER HEADING TOWARD BEECHER

Is there Anything We Can Do?

The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive species from Southeast Asia which feeds on the soft wood of Ash trees. There is no pesticide which can control this insect, which is currently munching on trees as close as Peotone along I-57. Peotone is currently removing these trees. It is only a matter of time before it arrives here in Beecher. The Village has 284 Ash trees on its parkways and on public property, and the decision has been made to remove these trees once they show severe signs of stress, and eventually replace them with a more diverse species of trees. There are methods of protecting an Ash tree from the borer through chemical injection which keeps the bug from boring into the wood. However, chemical application of the entire Village tree inventory every other year was not considered cost-effective in the long run.



There are also many Ash trees on private property. Several residents have asked if there is any way to save their Ash trees, whether they are on their parkway in front of their home or on their own property. There are a few effective treatments on the market today which involve an arborist injecting the trees with a special chemical every other year to keep the Ash Borer out of the tree. Although rather expensive, it is possible to provide a protective measure for your tree. While the Village does not advocate any specific vendor, it has compiled an information packet for interested homeowners. This packet is available at the Village Hall.

There is also another disease on its way to the Midwest, called Maple Scourge which the Village will need to look out for in the future.

UPCOMING BEECHER EVENTS

Youth Commission "Beecher's Got Talent" • May (date to be determined)

Chamber of Commerce Car Cruise Nights

**-1st and 3rd Wednesdays, May 15th thru September 4rd
in grassy area south of Buddys Drive In**

Bicycle Rodeo • Saturday, June 1st in Firemen's Park

Youth Commission Family Picnic • June (date to be determined)

Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days • June 7-8

**Lions Club Annual Beef Roast/Craft Show in conjunction with
Drivin' the Dixie & Chamber of Commerce Annual Street Dance**

All activities will be held in Firemen's Park • June 15

4th of July Celebration • July 3 – July 6 in Firemen's Park

Tractors For a Cure • July 13 in Firemen's Park

Youth Commission "Movie in the Park" • August (date to be determined)

Youth Commission "Camp Out Under the Stars" • September (date to be determined)



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