



# THE BEECHER BULLETIN

“Your Village Newsletter”

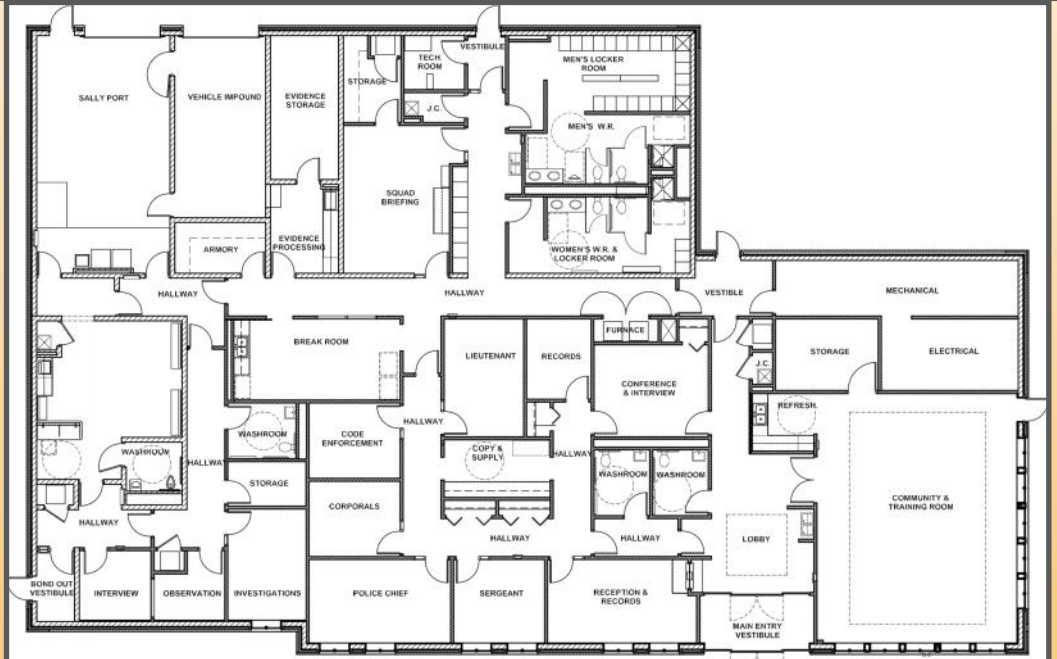
Spring 2024

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## CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY TO BEGIN SOON!

Thank you to the residents of the Village of Beecher for your approval and support of this much needed project. The new Public Safety Facility will be located at 250 W. Church Road and will be home to the Beecher Police Department, Code Enforcement, and EMA. The Beecher Village Board recently approved several bid packages that put the community one step closer to breaking ground on this highly anticipated project. Details on the groundbreaking will be announced soon. We look forward to seeing everyone there! Watch our Facebook page or website for updates.



## Village of Beecher

### OFFICIALS

Marcy Meyer  
*President*

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*Administrator*

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## BEECHER ELECTRONICS, HAZARDOUS WASTE & MOTOR OIL COLLECTION EVENT

Saturday, May 11, 2024

8 am - 3 pm *(appt required)*

Washington Township Center Parking Lot  
30200 Town Center Drive

Collection of nearly all types of electronics and household chemicals, hazardous materials and liquids. **All participants must make an APPOINTMENT.** There is a limit of 2 TVs per vehicle, maximum 15 gallons of paint, and ID required. Open to all Will County residents.

For appointment or more information visit [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com) or call 815-727-8834.



## VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

In our Fall newsletter, the hot topic of discussion was the Penfield Street road construction. This Spring we will be living with it again. The Penfield project will again be under construction but this time, the vast majority of the work has already been completed.

Many of you have commented that the asphalt doesn't come up all the way to the concrete. That's due to the final coat of asphalt not yet being applied. This Spring that portion of the job will be completed all the way to Gould Street, and then Gould Street from Penfield to Indiana will be resurfaced.

The block of Gould going north from Penfield to Hodges isn't included in the federally funded portion of the project, but the Village is paying to resurface that block. There will be impacts to the businesses on Gould, but this isn't as large of a project as Penfield was. Hopefully the impacts will be minimal and short-lived.

Lastly, the street and parking spaces will be striped and we can finish all the restoration and complete the project.



Charity Mitchell  
Village Administrator

For those of you who watch our Village Board meetings on YouTube, you have seen our new Village Administrator, Charity Mitchell. She has been immersing herself in Village business since she started with us last November.

Ms. Mitchell has an MPA degree from Governors State University and has spent her career in public service serving as an Executive Assistant to Police Chiefs in Countryside and Chicago Ridge, IL. She also served in the Community Development Department at the City of West Chicago and in the Clerk's office in Chicago Ridge. We are truly fortunate to have such a hard-working, talented individual in Beecher.

*Marcy Meyer*  
Village President

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR 2024

### VILLAGE OF BEECHER 2024 CONCERT SERIES IN THE PARK

*(details subject to change)*

<b>June 8 (Saturday)</b>	<b>7-10 pm</b>	<b>All American Throwbacks</b>
<b>July 6 (Saturday)</b>	<b>8-11 pm</b>	<b>Anthem</b>
<b>August 10 (Saturday)</b>	<b>6-9 pm</b>	<b>One of These Nights</b> (Eagles Tribute)
<b>September 7 (Saturday)</b>	<b>7-9:30 pm</b>	<b>Rearview</b> (Pearl Jam Tribute)

Celebrate summer with your favorite bands....or discover a new one! The Beecher Concert Series features a diverse lineup of popular acts from the region. Bring a blanket and chairs and come down to Firemen's Park and enjoy the music. We can't wait to see you for a relaxing evening in the park! Food and drink will be available for purchase at concerts.

**Thank you to Washington Township for their generous donation towards the concert series, allowing us to bring you even bigger and better bands!**



## ANOTHER 4TH OF JULY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

### 2024 Beecher 4th of July Festival July 3 - July 6 in Firemen's Park

The Beecher 4th of July Commission is preparing for another great summer festival of fun! The parade theme for this year is "Backyard BBQ" and will start at 4 pm on Thursday, July 4th. Listed below is the tentative schedule of events. (Details are subject to change)

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 3RD, 6 PM - MIDNIGHT

- 5:30 pm - Line up for Kid and Pet Parade  
@ Peace Lutheran
- 5:45 pm - Parade begins (*K-8th grade eligible for a prize*)
- 6-10 pm - \$28 wristbands
- 6-10 pm - Bingo and festival market
- 7-11 pm - Sniper Band on stage

#### THURSDAY, JULY 4TH, 2PM - MIDNIGHT

- 8 am - 5K Run/Walk
- 2-6 pm - \$28 wristbands (*Ticket sales only after 6 pm*)
- 2-11 pm - Festival market
- 2 pm - Food, pop, water and raffle sales begin
- 2-3 pm - PAKT demo on stage
- 2:30 pm - Parade Registration @ Princess Café
- 4 pm - Parade
- 5 pm - Beer stand open
- 6 pm until Fireworks - Bingo
- 5-7 pm - Ryan Craig Band on stage
- 8-11 pm Juke Box Hero on stage
- 9:30 pm - FIREWORKS

#### FRIDAY, JULY 5TH, 6 PM - MIDNIGHT

- 6-10 pm - \$28 Wristbands
- 6-10 pm - Bingo and festival market
- 7-11 pm - South Side Social Club Band on stage

#### SATURDAY, JULY 6TH, 2 PM - MIDNIGHT

- 1 pm - Bean bag tournament registration begins
- 2-6 pm - Bean bag tournament in the beer garden
- 2-6 pm - Prairie 4H Expo in sunken garden
- 2-4 pm - Face painting
- 2-7 pm - \$28 wristbands
- 7-11:30 pm - \$28 wristbands
- 2-10 pm - Festival market
- 4-10 pm - Bingo
- 4 pm - Chamber of Commerce Pork Chop Dinner  
(*until sold out*)
- 7-11 pm - Anthem Band on stage
- 11 pm - CAR RAFFLE



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SRO Officer  
Erik Hanson

## MEET BEECHER'S SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

Parents and students may have spotted Officer Erik Hanson in the school corridors or observed him engaging with students during class or at sporting events. Officer Hanson currently serves as a School Resource Officer (SRO) across all three Beecher schools. Officer Hanson has been a member of the Beecher Police Department for five years. Before joining the force, He pursued his education at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Education. While in college, he served eight years in the Iowa Army National Guard.

### WHAT DOES AN SRO DO?

It's more than simply being a police presence in the school. A School Resource Officer (SRO) is a carefully selected, specifically trained, and properly equipped law enforcement officer with sworn authority, trained in school-based law enforcement and crisis response. Ensuring school safety is the foremost priority. An SRO embodies three roles: law enforcement officer, educator, and informal counselor/mentor. An SRO is a readily accessible resource for students, staff, and parents alike. Beecher's SRO's biggest goal is to create a secure learning environment by collaborating with school staff, nurturing positive connections with youth, devising strategies to address youth-related issues, and safeguarding all students to empower them to achieve their fullest potential.

### BEECHER EMA CORNER

Severe weather season is upon us with the arrival of spring and it's a good time to start preparing for severe weather emergencies. Tornado season runs April through August, but severe weather can happen any time of year. Have a plan for indoor and outdoor situations where you may need to take shelter. If you find yourself in a dangerous situation...

- ◆ **Indoors:** Go to the lowest floor and put as many walls between you and the outdoors as possible. If you have a basement, go under the stairs.
- ◆ **Outdoors:** Find a sturdy shelter. As a last resort, lie flat in a ditch or low spot. A bridge/overpass does not offer protection from damaging winds or a tornado.
- ◆ Don't try to outrun a tornado especially in an urban area. Tornadoes can move faster than 60 mph. Be aware of flying debris, even if you are far from a tornado.



The Beecher EMA team members are trained National Weather Service Weather Spotters. We will be out when needed to monitor severe weather and to alert the public in case of an emergency. We want to remind you of the difference between a **Watch** and a **Warning**:

#### WATCH

**Be Alert.** Severe storms or tornadoes are possible, but have not formed yet.



#### WARNING

**Take Action.** A severe storm or tornado is indicated by radar or a trained weather spotter and is moving into your area.

## NON-HIGHWAY VEHICLE REGISTRATION

Summer is right around the corner. With that said, we expect to see our local residents enjoying their golf carts and Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV). All Non-Highway Vehicles (NHV) must be registered with the Beecher Police Department. Non-Highway Vehicle stickers go on sale June 1st of every year at the Beecher Police Department located at 724 Penfield Street. The price of the sticker is \$25.00. If you are paying by check, please make the check payable to the Village of Beecher. In order to be registered, the non-highway vehicle shall be subject to inspection. If you have any questions, please contact the Beecher Police Department at **708-946-6388**.

### A few things to remember:

- ✓ Must have a valid Driver's License
- ✓ Must have proof of vehicle insurance
- ✓ Drive on roadways 30mph or less
- ✓ You may cross at intersections for roadways 35mph or more
- ✓ Vehicle must have current registration with the Beecher Police Dept.
- ✓ Must not carry more passengers than seats permanently mounted
- ✓ Do not drive on sidewalks (625 5/11-1412.1)
- ✓ Do not drive in parks
- ✓ Do not drive on school property (park in parking lot)
- ✓ Maximum weight 2000 lbs, Maximum width 64"

Vehicles must include: brakes, steering apparatus, tires, rearview mirror, red reflectors in front and rear, slow moving emblem on rear, headlight (emits white light visible 500 feet), taillight (emits red light visible 100 feet), brake lights, and seatbelts and safety seats to comply with the Child Passenger Safety laws.

VILLAGE OF BEECHER  
NON-HIGHWAY VEHICLE  
PERMIT

**NHV001**

Expires May 31,



## BEECHER BLESSINGS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE IN NEED



Late last year a new charitable organization in Beecher was born, called Beecher Blessings, (BB). It's run by the Beecher Fire Protection District and the Beecher Police Department. Although it was originally organized as a Christmas based charitable organization, BB has expanded its reach by providing help to struggling families throughout the year.

BB can assist with those struggling with a catastrophic injury or illness, residence fire, Christmas gifts, clothes for needy children and many other situations. This past Christmas, six families were assisted in the Beecher area that included 16 children. BB operates in the boundary of the Beecher Fire Protection District.



BB is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that relies on donations and fundraisers. Donations are accepted anytime at the Beecher Fire or Beecher Police Department.

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



*The following actions were taken by the Beecher Village Board since the fall of 2023:*

- ✓ Approved an advertisement and timeline for the process of hiring a new Village Administrator due to the planned retirement of Administrator Bob Barber. (7/24/23)
- ✓ Appointed Charles Eich to the Village of Beecher Planning and Zoning Commission. (9/25/23)
- ✓ Completed a comprehensive search for a new Village Administrator and ultimately appointed Charity Mitchell to the position of Village Administrator. (11/13/23)
- ✓ Appointed Trustee Joe Tieri to the Laraway Communications Board as Beecher's representative and Administrator Charity Mitchell as the alternate. (11/13/23)
- ✓ Established a season for the Pickleball and multi-use court at the high school. The courts will be open from the first Monday in April through the Fourth Monday of November each year. (11/13/23)
- ✓ Approved an Ordinance regulating food trucks that will permit stationary sales from trucks and trailers with conditions and licensing requirements. (11/13/23)
- ✓ Established a parade policy for special parades through town in cooperation with the Fire Protection District and School District. (11/13/23)
- ✓ Approved a special use for a craft grow facility located on Church Road. (11/27/23)
- ✓ Approved an Ordinance to maintain compliance with the requirements of the Illinois Paid Leave for All Workers Act. (12/11/23)
- ✓ Approved an Ordinance authorizing the borrowing of funds in the amount of \$650,000 to complete the Penfield Street improvement project. (12/11/23)
- ✓ Authorized a Local Public Agency Resolution of Intent authorizing the use of MFT funds to repay the \$650,000 loan for the Penfield Street improvement project. (12/11/23)
- ✓ Authorized the replacement of 2 pumps at Fairway Drive lift station. (12/11/23)
- ✓ Recognized Village Administrator Barber with a Proclamation for his 35+ years of service to the Village. (12/11/23)
- ✓ Recognized Officer Lorek for his kindness and empathy shown during a traffic stop. (1/8/24)
- ✓ Authorized an Ordinance to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with School District to extend the SRO program for another year. (1/8/24)
- ✓ Appointed Officer Kurtis Ingram to the rank of Corporal. (1/22/24)
- ✓ Appointed Jill Murchek to the Beecher Youth Commission. (2/12/24)
- ✓ Notified by Joint Intergovernmental Fuel Committee that fuel pricing has been established after receiving two bids. The lowest bid was from Heritage F/S. Prices for the coming year will be \$3.43 for unleaded and \$3.73 for diesel. (2/12/24)
- ✓ Approved bid packages to begin work on the new Public Safety Facility:
  - Bid packages 1-5 for the site work in the amount of \$1,029,345. (3/11/24)
  - Bid packages 6-16A for building construction in the amount of \$3,351,155.00. (3/25/24)
- ✓ Approved allotting up to \$10,000 towards purchase of a new computer and software for the Joint Fuel System. (3/25/24)
- ✓ Approved Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Peotone for Joint Adjudication Program. (3/25/24)

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 the Village's YouTube channel. The link to the Village YouTube Channel can be found on the Village Website.

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## **MESSAGE FROM BEECHER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

### **FREE CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS**

Car seat inspections are appointment only. The Beecher Fire Protection District takes requests on a first-come, first-serve basis. To schedule an appointment, please contact Administrative Assistant Angie Koehne, at (708) 946-6585 Ext. 4001 or by email at [akoehne@beecherfire.org](mailto:akoehne@beecherfire.org)

If you have scheduled an appointment, please make sure to bring your car seat's manual, as well as your car's manual with you. *Illinois law requires that all children under the age of 8 be properly restrained in an appropriate child safety seat and children under the age of 2 ride rear-facing. All children need to be restrained correctly whenever they ride in a motor vehicle...every trip, every time!*

#### **Child Passenger Safety Tips:**

(1) Keep children in rear-facing safety seats as long as possible. (2) Keep children in the back seat at least through age 12. (3) Never place a rear-facing safety seat in front of an active airbag. (4) A used safety seat may not be safe unless you know the history of the seat and all labels, parts, and instructions are present. (5) Always register your safety seat with the manufacturer so you can be notified of recalls. (6) Do not use a safety seat that is more than six years old or past the expiration date stamped on the seat. (7) Non-regulated products such as toys attached to the safety seat, mirrors, window shades, and belt-tightening tools are not recommended unless the safety seat manufacturer allows their use. (8) All objects in the vehicle should be stowed in the trunk or tied down, as they can become projectiles if a crash or sudden stop occurs.

Keep your child safe in a car seat! [Register your car seat](#) and sign up for recall notices to receive safety updates.



## YARD WASTE BAG COLLECTION

- ◆ Yard waste Season is April 1st thru November 30th
- ◆ Place yard waste in brown paper yard waste bags with a Homewood Disposal Sticker or in yard waste carts.
- ◆ Yard waste cannot be placed inside plastic garbage bags.
- ◆ Yard waste bags and containers cannot exceed 50 pounds each and should be able to be reasonably lifted by one person.
- ◆ Yard waste will be picked up on regularly scheduled garbage days.



Residents may use any retail paper yard waste bags as long as they display a green Homewood/Star Disposal sticker. The green stickers are sold at Walt's Food Center and the Beecher Village Hall.

If you'd prefer to not use the paper bags or have a lot of yard waste each year, Homewood/Star Disposal also offers yard waste cart rental. The price of the cart is \$190 per year for unlimited yard waste. Contact Homewood/Star Disposal directly for cart rental. Their website is <https://mydisposal.com/> and their phone number is **708-748-8381**. You will be billed directly from Homewood/Star Disposal for cart rental.



## VILLAGE BRUSH COLLECTION PROGRAM

The 2024 brush collection program has begun. Weekly brush collection will occur every Tuesday (weather permitting) and continue until the last Tuesday in September.

To ensure your brush is collected, please visit our website for brush collection rules:

[villageofbeecher.org/residents/brush-collection-rules/](https://villageofbeecher.org/residents/brush-collection-rules/)

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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

Web Site: [www.villageofbeecher.org](http://www.villageofbeecher.org)  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hazardous Waste, Electronics & Motor Oil Collection Event

May 11th / 8 am - 3 pm

Washington Township  
(appointment required)

### Beecher Farmer's Market

2nd and 4th Saturdays - May thru October

Peace Lutheran Church (540 Oak Park)

### Concert Series in Firemen's Park

(See details on page 3)

### Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days

June 6-8

[beecherchamber.org](http://beecherchamber.org)

### 4th of July Festival

July 3-6 (see details on page 4)

### National Night Out

August 6th

