

# VILLAGE OF DIVERNON *News*

Issue 18

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[www.divernonil.com](http://www.divernonil.com)

**FROM THE MAYOR AND THE VILLAGE BOARD** Summer is almost here! Get out and enjoy the sun! Work in your garden, play with the kids, or take a walk. Have fun!

As much as we'd like to forget about COVID-19, we can't. We must be vigilant in protecting our families and friends. Please follow social distancing practices. The village board is doing what we can to protect our community. Police officers, Public Works staff, and office staff are performing safe practices, and the village board will be meeting via Zoom during the COVID-19 epidemic. Please call 217-628-3416 if you'd like to get on the visitors list or wish to view the meeting. You will be asked to provide an email address, then an invite will be sent to you to access the meeting. It's a challenge, but business must go on. For more on COVID-19, go to the village website at [www.divernonil.com](http://www.divernonil.com) or access this link for more information on other COVID-19 resources at [COVID-19 Coronavirus Resource Center for Illinois Residents](https://www.covid19.gov).

Our small businesses have suffered due to COVID-19. Please support them as best we can. Buying local will help them as they are an integral part of our community family. If we stand together and support one another, we can get through this!

We know our families are having a tough time during the stay at home government order. Divernon Township has limited funds available to assist those struggling due to lay-off or reduced work hours. Contact the Divernon Township Clerk at 217-341-0663 for more information. If you're having difficulty with paying your utility bill, contact the Village Office to see if a payment plan can be arranged. Also the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) still has funds available for utility assistance. Please contact the Sangamon County Community Resources office for more LIHEAP information and other program information at <https://co.sangamon.il.us/departments/a-c/community-resources/programs-and-services>. The LIHEAP application can also be located on the village website at [www.divernonil.com](http://www.divernonil.com).

Reaching residents quickly at time of emergency has been an issue. The village has recently purchased a new software that will allow, through text message or email, the village to reach impacted residents quickly. Civic Plus has the ability to send a message village wide or a select area. To sign up simply visit the CivicPlus website at [divernonil.regroup.com](http://divernonil.regroup.com). You can also sign up by texting JOIN DIVERNON to 30890 or by visiting the Village Hall and talking to Heather Rideout. We are working on implementing a sign up on our website at [www.divernonil.com](http://www.divernonil.com). Check the website regularly as this new means of providing important information is implemented.

There's still been little movement on the two gas stations, but we continue to work through the issues. Representative Mike Murphy has been working to see that these properties once again have businesses that will help boost Divernon's economy. You might have noticed the IGA property on the village square has been cleaned up. The building is now empty and the loading dock filled in. It looks great! We hope to see the exterior updated and the boarded up areas repaired. Board members and village staff continue to identify unkept properties and inform residents that action must be taken to clean up the area. Failure to properly maintain a property will result in a violation/fine. The village will continue to pick up storm debris, lawn waste and/or leaf bags placed on the street.

We have a new treasurer! Please welcome Amanda Kessler who will start her duties May 1, 2020. If you see Chris Nichols around, please thank her for serving the community and putting us in a strong financial position. Chris is planning to travel and enjoy spending time with her family. Thank you Chris!

The village website at [www.divernonil.com](http://www.divernonil.com) contains the newsletters as well as Board minutes and other information about the village. Please note that the village website continues to be updated. The website includes calendar of events which includes village activities, department news and activities, and information on various community clubs and services. Information will also be provided on programs available to eligible residents. It's important that you visit the village website frequently to keep abreast of village news, projects and programs.

Village Board meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Village residents are invited, and encouraged, to attend and voice any questions or concerns or just attend to learn about village business. Please contact village hall by the Monday before each meeting to get on the agenda if you wish to address the board.

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Jeremy Rhodes, Supt.

**THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT** continues to work to beautify our community. Water run off is a concern for many reasons. Public Works staff dug up the ditch on State Street to improve water flow. Due to COVID-19, some of the projects we had planned have been delayed. We don't want to put the village in a negative financial position, so we wait until funds begin to flow from the state again. In the mean time, there's plenty to be done with taking down trees to working on village properties. Hopefully you've noticed work being done on the pavilion including sandblasting and painting. New playground equipment is being added in the park including an accessible swing and toddler playset. The park is beautiful. Enjoy! The 2019 Annual Drinking Water Report is available and can be found on the village website at <https://divernonil.com/community/public-works-department/>, or copies can be obtained at the Village Hall .

**BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS** are available at the village hall. ***Prior to beginning any building project, an application must be filed.*** This includes sheds on skids. Please contact Jeremy Rhodes if you have questions. Completed applications must be submitted to village hall. **NO WORK SHALL BEGIN UNTIL THE APPLICATION IS APPROVED!**

**PROPERTY MAINTENANCE** - Please keep drains and culverts clear of debris. Make sure grass or leaves to be picked up are properly bagged with a sticker on each bag. Sticks and limbs must be piled neatly by the side of the road in the front of your property for the village to pick up. If you have an extra-large load of branches, please call the village office to check on pickup fees. Burning of yard waste is allowed on your property from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. only. Burning of garbage is prohibited at any time. Remember to keep your garbage cans stored off the street when not out for pickup. It's important that we take care of our properties in a manner that is inviting to people who visit our community.

**STORM SAFETY TIPS** – Storm season is here. Residents are reminded to make sure their cell phones are fully charged before severe weather hits, and to report any downed power lines, natural gas odor, or power outages as soon as possible. With severe thunderstorms a possibility, residents are advised to unplug sensitive electronic equipment, or protect it with a high-quality surge protector, and to stay away from downed power lines. For more safety tips or information, visit <https://www.ameren.com/illinois>.

**ANNUAL VILLAGE CLEAN-UP** - This year's annual clean-up, usually scheduled in the spring, has been postponed until sometime in the fall due to COVID-19. We want to make sure that Flower's Sanitation staff, village employees and volunteers and our residents remain safe until all is clear. We'll announce the new date once a date is decided.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jason Martin

**THE POLICE DEPARTMENT** has been busy continuing to train new officers, and enforcing new laws. Officers continue to patrol the streets protecting our families, especially our children. Please remember that Governor Pritzker has ordered that large gatherings, more than 10, are prohibited to protect from COVID-19 spread. Police officers will monitor to ensure this order is followed. You can find the stay at home [Executive Order 2020-10 \(HTML\)](#) here.

**ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS** will continue to be addressed as needed. Junk vehicles or other junk or trash must be removed from properties. Properties in need of the owner's attention due to an ordinance violation will be identified, and the owner will be contacted. Please do not park vehicles on or block sidewalks or mailboxes. Vehicles parked on the street must be parked on the side of the street in the direction headed. Unless there is a shoulder for parking, cars cannot be parked in the street on a regular basis. Fines will be assessed for all occurrences. Please help us keep the village safe and clean! As new issues arise, new ordinances will be considered.

**GOLF CARTS** must be inspected and approved by the Village Police Department. There is an annual fee for the sticker for each golf cart. Golf carts are not to be operated in any inclement weather. Please contact the Police Department for information on the correct requirements for your golf cart. Four wheelers are not street approved.

## VILLAGE EVENTS, COMMUNITY CLUBS & SERVICES

**THE DIVERNON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** cancelled the annual Alumni Banquet, which is usually held the end of May, due to COVID-19. The association had hoped to provide a special celebration for the new graduates since they had missed out on so much their senior year. The Association always needs volunteers and is hopeful volunteers from the newer classes will get involved. Please consider volunteering to keep this banquet going. If you're interested, please contact Nancy Crawford at 217/725-3413.

**SCHOOL NEWS** – School has been out for weeks due to COVID-19. Even though school is out, slow down and watch for youngsters walking or riding bikes to the school playground or ball field. School will reconvene in August, so visit the school website for school information at [www.auburn.k12.il.us](http://www.auburn.k12.il.us).

**DIVERNON MASONS LODGE** - Contact John Lewis at 217/741-7567 if you are interested in joining the Masons Lodge or renting the building.

**AMERICAN LEGION NEWS** - The American Legion Annual Golf Outing has been postponed until fall. The community has been very supportive of fund raising initiatives, and the American Legion is very appreciative. Thank you for your support! If you would like information on joining the Legion please contact Gene Brenning at 217/741-0920 or for building rental contact Jim Richards at 217/691-2881. Meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The men continue to make improvements in the building, and thank the community for their continued support.

**THE LADIES LEGION AUXILIARY** - The Divernon American Legion Ladies Auxiliary would like to thank the community for their support. The Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale is scheduled for November 14, 2020 at the American Legion Hall. If you have Christmas decorations you're no longer using, please consider donating them to the Ladies Legion Auxiliary. Funds raised during the year benefit many of our many projects, i.e., the legion building fund, veterans clothing and supplies, honor flight, scholarship, and many more. Please contact Nancy Beaty at 217/628-3383 to arrange for pick up of your bake sale goods or Christmas decorations.

If you have a loved one currently serving, please provide their name and mailing address as we like to reach out to our men and women in the military. Meetings are the 1st Thursday of the month at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in joining please contact Nancy Beaty at 217/628-3383.

**DIVERNON YOUTH GROUP CLOTHING CLOSET** is available to all residents of Divernon and surrounding communities. All clothing is FREE with sizes from infant to Adult XXL. Shoes, belts, and other accessories are also available. Clean, gently used clothing is accepted. If assistance is needed after hours, please contact Melissa at 217/801-6533. The Clothing Closet is located in the Presbyterian Church, 265 S. Second Street on the SW side of the Square. The closet is open every Monday from 4:00–6:00 p.m. All donations are appreciated! Thank you!

**DIVERNON CHRISTIAN YOUTH GROUP** meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Divernon Presbyterian Church from 5:00–7:00 p.m. This group is open to all youth in the community from 5th through 12th grades. Food, activities and a community service project are provided at each meeting. If you would like to get involved or donate, either monetary or as a volunteer, please contact Melissa Layton at 217/801-6533.

The closet will remain closed and the youth group will not meet until the stay at home order is lifted.

**THE DIVERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (DUMC) FOOD PANTRY** is in the Divernon Methodist Church, 503 South Second Street, Divernon. Hours of operation are 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. every Monday. Donations of non-perishable food items and paper products are always welcome. Excess garden produce is also welcome. Drop-off locations are United Community Bank and the Village Hall. Arrangements can also be made to deliver items to the church by calling 217/628-3530. Monetary donations are always welcome and can be mailed to the address above.

**THE DIVERNON SPORTSMAN'S CLUB** has many activities available for children and adults. For information on joining, please contact George Brown at 217/652-8538 or Kevin Zimmerman at 217/717-7940. Check the sign at the Senior Center for times of events and other announcements.

