

VILLAGE OF **DIVERNON** *News*

Issue 16

August 2019 www.divernonil.org

FROM THE MAYOR AND THE VILLAGE BOARD

We hope that you're enjoying summer with family and friends. Can you believe the kids are in school? Where has the time gone!

The newsletter is being issued again with the intent of keeping you informed. We encourage you to keep up on village activities by reading the Board minutes found on the village website at www.divernonil.org. Future newsletters will be issued every four months based on the village fiscal year and will be available on the village website or copies are available at the village hall. The next issue will be in January 2020.

The village website has been updated, some of the changes include: a calendar of events, information on village projects, department news and activities, and information on various community clubs and services. Information will also be provided on programs available to eligible residents such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program. (IHWAP). The village website is the most effective way to keep informed. It's important that you visit the website frequently to keep abreast of village news, projects and programs (www.divernonil.org).

You are probably curious as to the status of the two vacant gas station properties. We're working with Representative Mike Murphy to get the issues addressed so that we can begin to solicit potential new businesses. We have cleaned up the areas to make them more attractive.

The village has been busy with beautification of the community. We continue to work on getting the IGA property on the village square cleaned up. Progress is slow, but we hope by year's end you'll see the fruit of our efforts. The trees coming into town have been trimmed and shaped. Trees in the park have also been trimmed or removed making the park more inviting. Board members and village staff have been busy identifying unkept properties and informing residents that actions must be taken to clean up the area. Failure to properly maintain a property could result in a violation/fine. The village will continue to pick up storm and wind debris as well as grass clippings. Be sure to put debris and clippings on the street for pick up. With the efforts of all involved, things are looking good!

A major safety issue has been addressed by moving the stop sign at State and Brown. The new location allows for easy viewing of oncoming traffic. You may see other signs moved or added to improve safety conditions, especially for children.

The village program of water line replacement and repair continues as needed, the biggest issue being water line breaks. We hope to be able to do a couple blocks each year using our own village crew. Sidewalks will continue to be a priority.

Village Board meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Village residents are invited 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.

Please visit the village website at www.divernonil.org for the most current information. You can also join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/divernoncommunityinfo.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Jeremy Rhodes

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT has been busy working on many projects in the Village. Besides improving the beauty of our community, the Public Works crew has been maintaining water and sewer systems by replacing old pipes and pumps. Jeremy Rhodes will continue to monitor the systems to ensure they are running properly. Each year the village identifies streets that require maintenance. This summer numerous streets have been oiled and rocked, while others have been patched. Some alleys have also been rocked to improve access to personal property. Sidewalk replacement/repair is ongoing. The Public Works Building has also had some repairs and maintenance. A new metal roof was installed recently by the Public Works crew. It is important that our building and grounds be maintained on a regular basis to avoid higher costs for repair down the road. The building and area look great! Please take time to thank your Public Works crew for all of their hard work!

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 make sure lawn waste to be picked up is bagged properly 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 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. only. 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 - 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. Additionally, 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>.



POLICE DEPARTMENT Chief Jason Martin

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT would like to remind you to lock your vehicles and homes at all times. A theft can occur anytime or anyplace. Recently someone was seen trying to break into a vehicle in a Divernon neighborhood. It's also been reported that vehicles and trailers have been stolen in Auburn and Pawnee. Report unfamiliar vehicles either parked or driving in the area. When answering the door, be cautious. Look for an identifying logo or some other means of identification before opening the door. The Police Department asks that if you are going out of town, stop by the office or call 217-628-9725 to set up a home check. Please be careful on the village roads since school has started, and kids are walking to and from school. We've made it a priority to slow people down!

ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS will 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. Fines will be assessed for all occurrences. Please help us keep the village safe and clean! The Board has also received complaints of noise nuisances. Noises are a nuisance when they are louder than normal or at a time disruptive to normal sleep hours, examples are loud mufflers, late fireworks, idling loud engines, etc. Ordinances are being considered to address these.

GOLF CARTS must be inspected & approved by the Village Police Department. There is a 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. 4-wheelers are not street approved.

VILLAGE EVENTS, COMMUNITY CLUBS & SERVICES

The Divernon Alumni Association will hold an all classes "Class Reunion" on Saturday, September 7, 2019 in the Divernon Square at Maddy's Tavern from 3:00 – 10:00 p.m. This will be a day of fun for family and friends. There will also be live music by Divernon grads and tables of memorabilia. Divernon Alumni shirts will be for sale. Go to www.emersonpress.net and click on the dragon logo to purchase.

Join in for food, drink and Divernon fun!

SCHOOL NEWS – School is now in session. Slow down, and watch for youngsters walking to and from school. Remember the Divernon community has kids attending the Auburn school system, so please support the school and students in their events and activities. If you'd like school information, please visit www.auburn.k12.il.us.

DIVERNON MASONS LODGE - Contact John Lewis if you are interested in joining the Masons Lodge or for building rental 217-741-7567.

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS - 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 LADIES LEGION AUXILIARY - 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 make a donation, either monetary or by being a volunteer, please contact Melissa Layton at 217/801-6533.

THE DUMC FOOD PANTRY is located at the Divernon United 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, paper products, and excess garden produce are always welcome. Drop-off locations are the United Community Bank and the Divernon Post Office. Arrangements can be made for pick up of goods for delivery to the church by calling 217-628-3530. Monetary donations 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.

Kid's Fishing Tournament—Sunday September 15

Turkey Shoot-Saturday October 12 & Sunday October 13

Turkey Shoot-Saturday November 9 & Sunday November 10

