

VILLAGE OF **DIVERNON** *News*

Issue 17

January 2020 www.divernonil.com

FROM THE MAYOR AND THE VILLAGE BOARD Happy holidays and welcome to the new year! Can you believe it's January 2020 already? Christmas decoration judging took place on December 18th by persons from outside of Divernon. The winners are James Newbold at 9 Corn Silk for Best Light Show, Brent Bearden at 203 Springer for Best Theme, and Ray Pfeiler at 421 High School Street for Best Traditional awarded by the Divernon Fire Department. Winners will be awarded \$100 at the January 8th board meeting. Thank you for your participation.

Newsletters as well as Board minutes can be found on the village website at www.divernonil.com, and printed copies of the newsletter are available at the village hall. The next issue of the newsletter will be available in May 2020. Please note that the village website continues to be updated. The calendar of events 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 such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program. (IHWAP). Information on applying for the LIHEAP is on the website now. You can also get more information on LIHEAP and other programs available to village residents on the Sangamon County Community Resources website at <https://co.sangamon.il.us/departments/a-c/community-resources/programs-and-services>. It's important that you visit the village website frequently to keep abreast of village news, projects and programs (www.divernonil.com).

Although there hasn't been much movement on the two vacant gas station properties, we're still hopeful we will see some activity by summer. We continue to work with the bank, Representative Mike Murphy, and legal advisers to resolve the issues. You might have noticed the new owner of the IGA property on the village square has been working in the building on weekends. Progress continues to be slow, but we hope to see major improvements by summer. 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.

Divernon has a few new businesses! The Snack Shack is located on the square offering good food and convenience items. Encounters offers a small menu of food and gift items and is located on RT. 104 in the old quilt shop near the antique mall. The Divernon Equipment Sales which has been open for several months offers tractors, other equipment, service and repair, and is located on Reichert Road past UCB. Please stop in and welcome these new businesses to our fine community!

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.

Besides the village website, you can also join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/divernoncommunityinfo.

THE AUBURN-DIVERNON ATHLETIC CLUB is a new sports booster club being started that will produce an environment that inspires student athletes, coaches, parents and the community to collectively create a positive and spirited atmosphere for all athletic programs. If you would like to become a member or would like more information please email adacbooster@gmail.com or contact Tyler Bramley at 217/899-3667

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Jeremy Rhodes, Supt

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT has been busy working on many projects in the Village, but mostly sewer and water projects. The Third Street sewer lift station pump was repaired/upgraded, and the old cast iron water main on Madison Street between 1st and 2nd Streets was replaced. The old main was abandoned once the water was successfully tested and all residents were hooked to the new main. Jeremy Rhodes will continue to monitor the systems to ensure they are running properly. The Village Board has voted to have the pavilion painted in the Spring. It is important that our building and grounds be maintained on a regular basis.

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 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. 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 – We've already had our first snow, so it's important to remember to keep vehicles off the street to avoid being plowed in. Also, keep snow away from the furnace vent pipe. Failure to do so could result in poor furnace operation or carbon monoxide poisoning. 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 winter 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>.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jason Martin

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT has had some personnel changes over the last several months. Both Wes Crowder is no longer with the department, and Carson Becker is now part-time. Kenny Reardon and Austin Cronister were hired as full-time police officers, and Chris Madkins was hired as a part-time officer. Please give these new officers a hearty Divernon welcome! A thermal imaging system, Noptic System, was purchased through a grant received from the Gary Sinise Foundation. This system gives officers the ability to better serve the community.

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. Snow mobiles and 4-wheelers are not street approved.

VILLAGE EVENTS, COMMUNITY CLUBS & SERVICES

THE DIVERNON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION will be meeting in the next few months to start planning for the Alumni Banquet to be held in May. 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 is now in session. Slow down and watch for youngsters walking to and from school. Be especially careful when snow is on the ground as walking on sidewalks may be difficult. 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 at 217/741-7567 if you are interested in joining the Masons Lodge or renting the building.

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 men have been working on 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 wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and thank you for your support. If you have decorations that you no longer use, please consider donating them to the Ladies Legion Auxiliary for the annual Christmas Bazaar held in November. The money raised from the bazaar benefits many of our 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.

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 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. The planning committee will be meeting in the next few months to set the events schedule for 2020.



50 East Brown Street,
Divernon, IL 62530
217/628-3416
217/628-3076(fax)

*****ECRWSEDDM****
Postal Customer
Divernon IL 62530

Website: info@divernonil.com
Email: divvlg@comcast.net
Police Department 217/628-3355
Fire Department 217/628-3341
EMERGENCY: 911

Village President: Jim Copelin.....divernonmayor@comcast.net **Trustees:** Larry Baer, Tyler Bramley, Craig Busch,
Village Clerk: Rod Molnar.....divernonclerk@comcast.net Gail Hedges, Wayne Jones, Melissa Layton

WORSHIP IN DIVERNON

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages), 10:45 a.m. Morning Service, 11:45 a.m. Lunch, 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Service, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Prayer Meeting - Pastor, Seth Ventress.
DIVERNON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES - 9:45 a.m. Morning Service, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Tuesday weekly Bible Studies at Toni’s Café, we eat at 6:00 pm. For more information call 217/628-3530.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DIVERNON - REGULAR WORSHIP TIMES: - 9:30 a.m.—10:30 a.m. - Children’s Sunday School 10:00 a.m., and Fellowship Breakfast on the last Sunday of the Month at 9:00 a.m. - Reverend Steve Smith—217/899-1002.

THE DIVERNON TOWNSHIP LIBRARY is an asset to our community. Everyone is invited to take advantage of the resources available at the library such as books, DVD’s, audio books and patron computers. As a member of IHLS, books can be requested and delivered to Divernon at no cost to patrons. Programs offered are monthly movie night, weekly story hour, summer reading programs and accelerated reader points. Donations of audio books, DVD’s or money are always welcome. The library also offers copying and faxing for a nominal fee. For more information, please contact the library at 217/628-3813 or visit the library’s website at www.divernontownshiplibrary.org.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION The Village of Divernon News will be issued every four months. If you have information on your business or club that you would like included, please contact the Village Office at 217/628-3416.