

VILLAGE OF DIVERNON *News*

Issue 19
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www.divernonil.com

FROM THE MAYOR AND THE VILLAGE BOARD The end of summer is almost here! School begins soon, and the leaves will begin to fall. Get out and enjoy the rest of summer!

The first Annual Divernon Village Block Party was a huge success! It was good to see families enjoying the games, good food and music, and a refreshing beverage. A highlight was the Pet Parade. Thank you to those who provided donations or gifts for prizes. Thank you everyone for coming out and supporting our small businesses and the village.

COVID-19 continues to rock our world. As COVID does not seem to be going away anytime soon, we must continue to be vigilant in practicing social distancing, wearing a mask in public, and washing our hands all in line with CDC protocols. Doing so will help in protecting our families and friends. We can't stress enough the importance of following 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 is meeting at the Mason's Lodge to allow for proper distancing during the COVID-19 epidemic. For more on COVID-19, go to the village website at 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.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/resources.html).

Our small businesses continue to suffer due to COVID-19. Please continue to 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 continue to have a tough time during the pandemic. 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) has received additional funding for utility assistance. Assistance for other services is also available through the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). For more information on LIHEAP and CSBG, please contact the Sangamon County Community Resources office at <https://co.sangamon.il.us/departments/a-c/community-resources/programs-and-services>. For your convenience, the LIHEAP application is located on the village website at www.divernonil.com.

Everyone should have received the 2020 Census Survey months ago. Many of you have yet to complete and submit the survey. Funding for village loans and grants are based on the results of the survey so it's critical it be completed and submitted. If you have not submitted the survey, you may be contacted by Census workers following up to see if you received the survey and answer any questions you may have.

Reaching residents quickly at a time of emergency continues to be an issue. The village purchased a new software that will allow, through text message, email or phone message, 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 Civic Plus website at divernonil.regroup.com. For your convenience, a link has been added to our website for easy sign-up. You can also sign up by texting JOIN DIVERNON to 30890 or by visiting the Village Hall and talking to Heather Rideout.

Hopefully by now you have seen the For-Sale signs posted at the two gas stations. We are working with Economic Development specialists and a developer to identify buyers of the property. Mayors, past and present, as well as village board members, past and present, have worked hard to see that these properties once again have businesses that will help boost Divernon's economy. 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.

The village website at www.divernonil.com contains the most current information on village activities. Please note that the village website continues to be updated including a calendar of events and information on resources. It's important that you visit the village website frequently to keep abreast of village news, projects and programs.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Jeremy Rhodes, Supt.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT has been busy over the past several weeks with issues related to storm damage. We lucked out and the tornado passed over, but a number of trees were downed or damaged. Kudos to our staff for assisting Auburn with storm clean-up! Staff continue to pick up branches and yard waste on Mondays. You have probably seen the staff patching holes around the village. If you have not already, you will also start to see some streets being oiled and rocked. Many of the projects which had been planned have been placed on hold due to reduced income from gaming, sales tax, etc. We do not want to put the village in a negative financial position, so we will wait until funds begin to flow again. In the meantime, there is plenty to be done. Hopefully, you have noticed the work done on the pavilion including sandblasting and painting. New playground equipment was added in the park including an accessible swing and toddler playset. The park is beautiful! Enjoy!

VILLAGE SEWAGE DUMP - Only Divernon village proper (does not include Comanche Village) residents are allowed to dump at the site. Only yard waste, including grass clippings and tree branches, are allowed. A new camera system has been installed to monitor the area. Violators will be contacted and possibly fined.

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. Remember to keep your garbage cans stored off the street when not out for pickup. It is 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>.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jason Martin

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT has been busy continuing to train officers and enforce laws. We have a new police officer, Garrad Straube, on the department. Please give Officer Straube a big welcome! Officers continue to patrol the streets protecting our families, especially our children. Please remember that Governor Pritzker has ordered that large gatherings, 50 or over, are prohibited to protect from COVID-19 spread. Police officers will monitor to ensure this order is followed. For more information go to: <https://dceocovid19resources.com/assets/Restore-Illinois/businessguidelines4/phase4overview.pdf>.

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.

OPEN BURNING ORDINANCE 4-1-2 states that open burning of any garbage, hazardous waste, nonwood products, human or animal feces or human or animal flesh, on the ground or in any container is prohibited. No burning is allowed on public property including streets, gutter (ditch), curb, sidewalk, or property owned by the village (alley). No fire may be located less than twenty-five feet (25') from any building or private property. No fires, except for permitted recreational fires, may be started before 7:00 a.m. or allowed to burn past 7:00 p.m. Failure to comply could result in a fine of \$75 up to \$300. Ordinance 4-1-2 can be found at https://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=1084 updated June 2018.

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 and side-by-sides 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. Maddy's No. 10 plans to hold a second all class reunion on Saturday, September 26th on the street outside of Maddy's. 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 being held remotely the first semester due to COVID-19. It's important to slow down and watch for the youngsters walking or riding bikes to the park or school playground or ball field. Visit the school website for school information at www.auburn.k12.il.us. A book box, built by the Auburn Student Council, has been erected on the north side of the square just off the sidewalk. Feel free to borrow a book or add a book for others to enjoy.

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

AMERICAN LEGION NEWS - The community has been very supportive of fund raising initiatives, and the American Legion is very appreciative. Thank you for your support! The American Legion Annual Golf Outing has been scheduled for September 4th at Edgewood Golf Course in Auburn, IL, COVID-19 permitting. Should the event be canceled, an announcement will be made and registrants contacted. For more information on the golf outing contact Stephanie Emerson at 217/341-7905. 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 youth group is not currently meeting, but will begin meeting soon.

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.

