

VILLAGE OF DIVERNON News

Issue 21

May 2021

www.divernonil.com

FROM THE MAYOR AND THE VILLAGE BOARD Summer is upon us which means vacation, mowing grass, fishing, bicycling, etc. Please watch for bicycles, motorcycles, and golf carts. Enjoy the outdoors!

Yes, there will be another Divernon Block Party on July 10, 2021! Just like last year, all games and entertainment are free. Come enjoy a day of fun and games, good food and drink, and entertainment! To sign up for the parade contact Katie McElroy at 217/899-8603.

The Divernon municipal election was held Tuesday April 6, 2021. Congratulations to Mayor Jim Copelin, returning trustee Larry Baer and new trustees Chuck Apgar and Joe Bukantos. Gail Hedges was appointed to replace Rod Molnar as Village Clerk and Dianne Brenning was appointed to fulfill Gail Hedges' trustee term. A special thank you to Rod Molnar for 22-years of service, Melissa Layton for 12-years of service, and Wayne Jones for 4-years of service. Your commitment to this community is much appreciated!

We all experienced the gas crisis in February, and the Village Board wants to thank you for reducing your thermostat setting in order to conserve usage. The Village voted to pay \$300,000 of the \$600,000 bill with the remaining balance to be paid by residents through a slight monthly rate increase over a three-year period or until the full amount is paid. If you're having difficulty with paying your gas bill, there are federal programs available through Sangamon County. 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>. Also consider applying for the Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) also through Sangamon County to help reduce energy consumption.

The Village has had occasion to use our emergency contact system to reach out with important information. If you haven't signed up, please go to the CivicPlus website at <https://divernonil.reggroup.com/signup>. Also, please sign up for general information notifications. For your convenience, a link has been added to our website for easy sign-up. You can also sign up by texting JOIN DIVERNONINFO to 30890. Contact Heather Rideout. For questions or assistance.

In an effort to keep our Village safe, the community has started a Neighborhood Watch program. For information on meeting dates and location, please contact the Village office at 217/628-3416.

The Village has hired Masten Mosquito abatement to spray for several weeks this summer. Spraying will occur once weekly down streets and alleys. The spray is non toxic to dogs and cats.

COVID-19 still continues to impact our daily lives. As COVID restrictions are being adjusted, 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. 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 dceocovid19resources.com.

Have you considered getting the COVID-19 vaccination? Vaccinations will be offered May 14, 2021 at the Masonic Lodge. Call the Village Hall for sign-up and other details.

COVID continues to have a major impact on our small businesses. Please continue to support them as they struggle. Buying local will help them as they are an integral part of our community family. Times are tough, but we will get through this!

The Village website at www.divernonil.com contains the most current information on Village activities, new ordinances, etc.. 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 welcomes Cayden Muench as a new employee. If you see Cayden, please welcome him. The Public Works staff have completed the water main replacement project. Work now begins on oiling and rocking the streets. Our staff are also busy mowing grass throughout the week, and picking up branches and yard waste on Mondays. The Village is looking good thanks to our Public Works Department! When you see the crew around town working to improve and clean up our community, thank them for the work they do!

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. 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. Sticks and limbs must be piled neatly by the side of the street in 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 only from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 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 SAFETY TIPS – Summer is tornado season. If the tornado sirens are sounded, please get to a place of safety. 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. When thunderstorms are forecast, 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>.

The 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.



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jason Martin

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT continues to keep our Village safe. We have two new PT officers, Nico Williams and Christian Porter. When you see them around, please welcome them. Officers patrol the streets protecting our families, especially our children. Thank our police officers when you see them out patrolling. 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/restore-illinois/restore-illinois-phase-4/>.

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, 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://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/divernonil/latest/overview> 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 H.S. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – The annual Alumni Banquet, normally held the end of May, has been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. The Alumni Association's Banquet Committee has chosen to continue the tradition of awarding a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior who lives in Divernon. Funding for the scholarship usually comes from Banquet proceeds (50/50 ticket sales and individual donations); as this will be the second year with no Banquet proceeds, any member wishing to contribute is encouraged to do so. [DHS Alumni Assn. – P.O. Box 394 – Divernon, IL 62530]. When responding, please provide a current e-mail address. Due to a generous donation, the Alumni Association offered two \$1000 scholarships. The recipients of this year's awards are Joseph Derhake and Elly Carter. Congratulations Joseph and Elly! If you have ques-

SCHOOL NEWS – School is currently in session into June. It's important to slow down and watch for the youngsters walking or riding bikes to school or the park, school playground or ball field. Visit the school website for school information at 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 - COVID-19 has had a major impact on fund raising activities this year. In spite of COVID, the American Legion Annual Golf Outing is planned for Friday, September 3, 2021 at the Edgewood Golf Course. If you would like information on joining the American 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 to the building, and thank the community for their continued support.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY - Unfortunately again this year fund raising was stalled due to the pandemic. At this time we are unsure if the Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale will be held. We are still collecting Christmas decorations you're no longer using in the hopes the bazaar will be held. Please consider donating them to the American Legion Auxiliary. Funds raised during the year benefit the American Legion building, clothing and supplies for veterans, honor flight, scholarship, etc. The recipient of the \$500 scholarship for 2021 is Emily Gibbs. Congratulations Emily! If you so choose, you can donate to the American Legion Auxiliary so that we are able to provide services to those serving or having served our country. We enjoy serving our veteran family, our seniors and a high school senior! Please contact Nancy Beaty at 217/628-3383 to arrange for pickup of your 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 held 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 Layton 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. 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.



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

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

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Postal Customer
Divernon IL 62530

Village President: Jim Copelin.....divernonmayor@comcast.net Trustees: Larry Baer, Tyler Bramley, Craig Busch,
Village Clerk Gail Hedges..... divernonclerk@comcast.net Chuck Apgar, Joe Bukantos, Dianne Brenning

Board Meetings 2nd and 4th Wednesday of Month at 6:30 p.m.

VILLAGE EVENTS, COMMUNITY CLUBS & SERVICES cont'd

THE AUBURN-DIVERNON ATHLETIC CLUB is a sports booster club whose purpose is to 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.

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. The next newsletter will be available September 2021. If you have information on your business or club that you would like included, please contact the Village Office at 217/628-3416.