

VILLAGE OF DIVERNON News

Issue 23

February 2022 www.divernonil.com

FROM THE MAYOR AND THE VILLAGE BOARD

Happy New Year! We hope that everyone was able to enjoy a safe and merry holiday season. The Annual Christmas Decoration Contest was a success and we are happy to recognize the Bearden's for Best Theme, the Hedges for Best Light Show and the Newbold's for Best Traditional. As we look forward to the next year of decorating, if anyone is interested in volunteering to form a Christmas Square committee and to be responsible for decorating the town square please contact the Village office at 217-628-3416.

Around the Village you may have noticed that trees along Brown Street have been removed. Pests led to the trees becoming unhealthy and removing them became a prudent course of action. We do plan to have them replaced in the near future. The Otter Lake Water Commission has shared with the Village that they have passed a 3% annual increase to water rates for the next 5 years. The 2020 water report is available on their website.

The Village continues to participate in the Sangamon County Multijurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The work group continues to meet and the 2021 Annual Report can be found at <https://co.sangamon.il.us/departments/m-r/regional-planning-commission/natural-hazards-mitigation-plan>. It is also linked on the Village site. The Village Board has been hard at work for our community, and we are working diligently to ensure the American Rescue Plan Act funding is put to good use. We are also looking into other opportunities to improve our infrastructure and community.

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 continues to share helpful information, and if you subscribed to text alerts you may have received a notice about an update to the number that the messages come through. If you haven't signed up, please go to the CivicPlus website at <https://public.alertsense.com/SignUp/?RegionId=1852>. Also, please sign up for general information notifications. For your convenience, a link has been added to our website for easy sign-up. Contact Heather Rideout with questions or for assistance.

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 Garage Sale and Clean-up Day: The Village is finalizing details for the annual Village Yard Sale to be held April 29th and 30th.

The Village Clean-up Day is being scheduled for May 7th. The Clean-up Day will include electronics recycling and large trash disposal. More details will be shared on the Community information Facebook page.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Jeremy Rhodes, Supt.

THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT Work has been completed on oiling and rocking the streets. 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!

NATURAL GAS SURVEY - Please check your mailbox for the Natural Gas Survey that is sent out on behalf of the Village to gauge the public awareness of safety surround the use of natural gas. This survey arrives in a white envelope with blue flame printed on the front and "Village of Divernon" is printed in the return address location.

As a reminder, if you suspect a gas leak, call 217-628-3416 immediately.

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!



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jason Martin

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT continues to keep our Village safe. We have added several new Officers to the Department, and they share our commitment to this community.

STREET LIGHTS If you notice a street light out please let us know so we can identify the light and contact Ameren to get them serviced. Keeping the village well lit is a great way to reduce problems.

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!

SNOW please make sure to keep your sidewalks clear, and vehicles properly parked in case of Snow. The Public Works Department works hard to keep our streets clear, and your assistance is appreciated.

VILLAGE EVENTS, COMMUNITY CLUBS & SERVICES

BLOCK PARTY

THE DIVERNON BLOCK PARTY has been scheduled for July 9 2022!

More details are in the works and we are excited for another fun community event!

Check out 2022 Divy Block Party on Facebook for the most up to date info.

THE DIVERNON H.S. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – 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 217/725-4513.

SCHOOL NEWS – 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 - Sausage & Pancake Breakfast on March 13th - 9:00 to 12:00 at the Legion. 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 AMERICAN 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 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 Cheri Pfler at 217/303-2255, Nancy Crawford at 217/725-4513 or 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 hours have changed to Wednesdays 3:00–5:00 p.m.**

DIVERNON CHRISTIAN YOUTH GROUP 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.

**We have many great local businesses in Divernon!
By supporting them you help support our Village!**

The Village is looking to form a Christmas Square committee to be responsible for decorating the town square please contact the village office at 217-628-3416.





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

*****ECRWSEDDM****

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. Adult Sunday School at 9:00am. Open Heart sewing ministry meets Tuesday from 9:30 until 11:00am. 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 quarter. The next newsletter will be available in May/June. If you have information on your business or club that you would like included, please contact the Village Office at 217/628-3416.

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