

Winter 2025 Pawnee News

The official newsletter of the Village of Pawnee, Illinois



HAPPY NEW YEAR – WELCOME 2025

Scan the QR code for the latest Village news - <https://pawneel.net>

A Message from Mayor Jeff Clarke

Happy New Year! As we enter into the new year, we are filled with excitement and enthusiasm for the potential of Pawnee to grow and flourish for the next generation of residents and commercial businesses. To keep you informed and engaged, we are thrilled to introduce our first quarterly newsletter, the Pawnee News.

With the South County publication no longer available, we recognized the necessity for a direct means of communication with our community. The Pawnee News will serve as a platform to share updates on what's happening in Pawnee, provide insights into future projects, offer helpful tips and reminders, and much more.

I am proud to say that this marks my fifteenth year of serving as mayor of Pawnee. Having grown up in this town, I have personally witnessed the remarkable dedication of countless residents who have worked tirelessly to improve and develop our village. I am confident that there are many others in Pawnee who share this same passion and drive.

As we step into 2025, I encourage you to support our local businesses, consider joining a community program, or reach out to the Village board members to address any questions or concerns you may have. Together, we can ensure the continued growth and prosperity of our beloved hometown.

May this new year bring you joy, peace, and prosperity.

PAWNEE FOOD PANTRY

Open Mondays 11:00 am - 2:00 pm | Every Third Monday 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

704 Seventh Street, PO Box 304, Pawnee, IL 62558 Phone: 217 860-7244

BULK WATER STATION

Modernized for Your Use

The Bulk Water Station situated on North Fourth Street has been serving the Pawnee community for over four decades. This facility enables both residents and non-residents to buy water through a coin-operated system. The water station allows rural customers to fill wells, farmers to fill spray tanks, local greenhouses to supplement irrigation needs, and residents to fill pools. The cost is approximately \$0.25 per 30 gallons. Due to exposure to the elements and frequent use, the station was deemed no longer functional.

Last fall, Broque Beitel was awarded the contract to reconstruct the station, making it more convenient for customers to access bulk water while ensuring the reliability of the newly installed coin machine. The total approximate cost to upgrade the bulk water station with metal siding and metal roof is \$9,450, including \$3,950 to replace the 40 year old coin machine. *Thank you, Broque and team, for a job well done!*



FOR WATER, GAS, AND SEWER
EMERGENCIES, CALL

217 625-2941

In Dedication



Last October, the Village had the privilege of renaming a portion of Fourth Street as “Kratochvil Way” to serve as a living tribute to the memory of Tim Kratochvil, former Superintendent of Pawnee High School, who passed away in 2023. Brent Wise replaced the sign as Tim’s family and friends were on hand to witness this special tribute.

Body Cameras Effective January 1, 2025

The Illinois Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act was effective January 1, 2016. It was amended by the SAFE-T Act of 2021, which requires all Illinois LE agencies to implement a body-worn camera program, depending on agency type and size, no later than January 1, 2025. Since 2024, Pawnee PD has implemented the use of body cameras.

Door-to-Door Solicitation: No Knock List

The No Knock List allows Pawnee residents to opt out of door-to-door solicitation and sales. Solicitors are prohibited from visiting residents who are registered with the Village of Pawnee’s No Knock List.



Sign Up Here <https://pawneeil.net/residents/no-knock-list>

VILLAGE SERVICES & TIPS

Utility Invoice Upgrade Announced

Your monthly gas, water, and sewer bill is produced through a billing software known as Locis. In autumn 2024, the Village consented to join a waitlist for an upgrade from version 7 to 8. The update allows the Village to keep pace with technological advancements. The projected expense is \$6,000, with implementation anticipated during FY25-26.

For your convenience, the Village offers several **payment options** - Cash, Check, Automatic Debit, and Online



Utility invoices mailed the **last day of the month**.



Utility payment due date is the **12th of the month**.



Utility invoices emailed by the **first of the month**.



Payment Assistance
Call **217 625-2941**

Infrastructure Enhancements

Water Main Initiative Continues

Due to deteriorating infrastructure and the impact of natural elements, the Village sought funding to upgrade water mains and piping in the central part of the Village. Federal, state, and local grants were obtained to support the **\$1.8 million** endeavor completed in 2024. This initiative aims to avert future pipe ruptures and boil order advisories. The Village continues to seek additional funding to upgrade all water mains.

2024 Completed Road Projects

In the autumn, the Village enhanced the streets and curbs along Marianne and Brenda Drive. This initiative, which cost **\$220,000**, was financed through Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) revenue and local funds. Asphalt roadways generally have a lifespan of 15 to 20 years. In contrast, oil-treated and chipped surfaces are maintained by rotating every three to four years at an expense of around **\$56,000** annually funded by MFT resources.



Winter Parking

Help your road crew by relocating your vehicle to a driveway during snow days. This allows the crew to easily remove snow from the road ways.



A Leaky Toilet

A constantly leaking toilet can waste around **4,000 gallons of water a day**. A leaky toilet can cause a dramatic increase in your water bill. If you suspect a leak, contact a local plumber for an inspection.
Source: EPA



Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Set home thermostats above 55 degrees during cold weather.
- Drip cold water in farthest faucet from your main valve.
- Find shut off valves for emergencies.
- Insulate pipes in unheated areas.
- Open cupboards & vanities to warm pipes.
- Close inside valves that control the water supply.

Source: <https://protectyourpipes.org>



PAWNEE
ALERTS

Sign Up!
Scan the QR code



Pawnee Alerts is a mass notification system (driven by OnSolve) designed to inform residents and businesses about non-emergency occurrences and urgent situations. Messages may cover topics such as Boil Orders, Service Interruptions, Street Closures, Police Bulletins, Emergency Events, and other vital updates.

Online <https://pawneel.net> Phone 217 625-2941

PAWNEE CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1** Happy New Year!
Village Office Closed
- 13** Village Board Meeting
7:00 pm
- 20** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Inauguration Day
Village Office Closed
- 27** Village Board Meeting
7:00 pm

FEBRUARY

- 2** Groundhog Day
- 10** Village Board Meeting
7:00 pm
- 14** Valentine's Day
- 17** President's Day
Village Office Closed
- 24** Village Board Meeting
7:00 pm

MARCH

- 9** Daylight Savings Time
- 10** Village Board Meeting
7:00 pm
- 17** St. Patrick's Day
- 24** Village Board Meeting
7:00 pm

*Calendar items are subject to change.



617 7th Street
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

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Permit #11

Village Board

Jeff Clarke *Mayor*
Devona Martin *Village Clerk*
Brent Wise *Treasurer*
Troy Grant
Erika Guess
Pat Murphy
David Skinner
Phil Thompson
Dale Walters

CRAVEN & CRAVEN, P.C.
Counselors at Law
Donald M. Craven
Joseph A. Craven

Village Personnel

GAS/WATER DEPARTMENT
Andy Lee *Supervisor*
Josh McElroy

SEWER DEPARTMENT
Steve Haney *Supervisor*
Travis Simpson

STREET DEPARTMENT
Jeff Schober *Supervisor*
Tim Vidmar

UTILITY OFFICE
Brent Wise *Office Manager/Treasurer*
Kim Nichols *Billing Clerk*
Kelly Haney *Grant Writer/Webmaster*
Michelle Featherston
Sonja Skinner

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Barclay Harris *Chief*
Eric Bertoni
Joshua Ibberson
Corey Reynolds
Clyde Ross
Amanda Sunley

Contact Us

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PAWNEE NEWS is the official newsletter of the Village of Pawnee, published quarterly and mailed to more than 1,000 Pawnee postal households and businesses. Please direct comments, suggestions and questions, including advertising to: Brent Wise, Office Manager, vpawnee@comcast.net.