

Spring 2025 Pawnee News

The official newsletter of the Village of Pawnee, Illinois



HELLO, SPRING!



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

A Message from Mayor Jeff Clarke

The Village of Pawnee eagerly anticipated the arrival of spring! After enduring a chilly winter, we are excited to nurture our gardens, embark on home improvement projects, and soak up the sunshine. We encourage everyone to take a moment to survey their neighborhoods with an eye toward collaboration and fostering an environment filled with kindness and beauty.

Our journey toward ongoing improvement will soon commence with the election of a new Village board. Throughout my time as Mayor, I have had the privilege of working alongside dedicated and diverse board members who share a common vision for elevating the Village of Pawnee.

Each member—whether past, present, or future—possesses unique talents that contribute significantly to our community's interests. I extend my gratitude to the board members for their commitment to serving our wonderful Village. We are fortunate as a village, and I look forward to my next term with all of you.

The highlight of the summer, Pawnee Prairie Days, is scheduled for late May. The organizing committee consistently welcomes fresh ideas and volunteers. Make plans to join in and enjoy time with family and friends at Pawnee Prairie Days. Attendees can look forward to music, delicious food, a beauty pageant, carnival rides, and various other special activities.



MAY 29-31 2025

Follow
Pawnee Prairie Days'
Facebook page
for the latest
updates!

Music | Food | Carnival | Car Show | BBQ Competition | Games

YARD WASTE SERVICES

A Service for Residents within the Village of Pawnee Limits

The Village permits its residents to use the burn pile to dispose of yard waste - grass clippings, tree limbs, and shrubs. This specific burn pile, located at the end of North 4th Street, is exclusively available to residents within the Village limits. Residents can access it through the gate. The burn area is near the central part of the property. For a comprehensive list of acceptable materials, please consult Chapter 3-3.1 of the Village Code.



Grass Clippings in
Lawn Bags



Shrubs



Tree Limbs

Branch Limb Pickup

Contact the Village office to request a limb pickup. Limbs must be stacked near the curb.



BURN PILE

Daily from
7:30 a.m. until Dusk

YARD WASTE BURNING

Daylight Hours on
EVEN numbered days

Pawnee Police Department

Summer Fun: Fireworks Ordinance



A Fireworks Ordinance (2.10.1-10) was established on February 10, restricting consumer-level fireworks to **July 3rd, 4th, and 5th between 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.** This rule allows residents to enjoy holiday festivities while giving those sensitive to noise and light a chance to prepare accordingly. The Pawnee Police Department will oversee compliance with this new regulation, and infractions may incur a penalty of at least **\$250 for each violation**. Please remember to be considerate neighbors this Fourth of July by adhering to the designated times for fireworks usage.

Lock It or Lose It

Lock It or Lose It is a national crime prevention program encouraging vehicle owners to take simple precautions to protect valuables. Doing our part reduces vehicular burglaries. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when your vehicle is left unattended.

- Always lock your vehicle's doors and remove valuables or keep them out of sight.
- If you have a garage, use it and lock the door.
- If you must leave valuable objects or packages in your vehicle, lock them in the trunk.
- Call 911 if you see somebody looking into windows, pulling door handles, or checking for alarms.

Your Vacation Watch Dog

While you're away on vacation, we can help monitor your property. The Pawnee Police Department provides additional patrols to ensure your home is secure, allowing you to relax without concerns.

Submit your request at least a week prior to your trip by completing the form available on the Village website or call 217 625-2341.



Golf Cart & UTV Stickers

All UTVs and golf carts must undergo inspection and register with the Pawnee Police Department. The annual registration fee is \$30.00.

Once registered, the golf cart and UTV are classified as a motor vehicle, meaning that it is subject to all relevant state laws and local regulations when operated on village streets.

To learn more, visit <https://pawneeil.net/residents/services/golf-carts-utvs/>.

VILLAGE SERVICES & TIPS

Tornado Sirens: Your Outdoor Warning System

An Outdoor Warning Siren (OWS) notifies individuals within the Village of Pawnee boundaries about an impending threat to the community, urging them to head indoors and gather more details through television broadcasts or weather radios.

The Village ESDA Director operates and maintains five OWSs. Activation of these sirens can be requested by the Village Mayor, Pawnee Police, and Pawnee Fire Department based on their judgment. The OWSs are located at the following addresses:

-  13th & Lincoln Streets *Installed in 2024 to expand coverage/\$40K Cost*
-  North Park/Village Garage *Replaced in 2024/\$40k Cost*
-  Tamaroa Drive *Replaced in 2023*
-  Pawnee School Grounds (east side)
-  6th & Monroe Streets



Sirens are triggered when the National Weather Service (NWS) releases a warning or when certified spotters report any of the following dangers that may be present in the Village of Pawnee.

- *The NWS has disseminated a tornado warning.*
- *A trained weather spotter spots a tornado or funnel cloud.*

Additionally, if the NWS issues a severe thunderstorm warning, or if an alert from a trained spotter indicates winds reaching 70 mph or more (which can uproot entire trees) and/or hail that is golf ball-sized or more significant (1.75 inches in diameter or greater), sirens will also activate.

FREE Large Item Pick-Up and Drop-Off Collection



Sangamon County residents are eligible to participate in free large item pick-up and drop-off collection. Sangamon County and the City of Springfield partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County to offer this service. To schedule a drop-off or pick-up by phone, residents must call Habitat for Humanity at 217 523-2710 or schedule online at <https://tinyurl.com/mwwxn5cb>.



PAWNEE
ALERTS

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



Building Permit

When planning to construct or enhance outdoor projects like installing a fence, pool, or portable shed (65 sq ft and above), it is necessary to acquire a building permit. Building permits may be submitted to the Village Office, along with a sketch of the proposed structure and the appropriate fee.



Scan the code to learn about permit fees and to download a permit.



North Park

The North Park usually opens for the season in early April, though this is subject to weather conditions. The Parks and Sewers Department is exploring new playground landscaping options and repainting the pavilion. To reserve the park and ball diamond, please contact the Village Hall.

FACT

The walking path is a quarter mile long.



Animal Control

The Village has established a one-year agreement with Sangamon County for animal control services. Before contacting the County, the Village strives to identify the owners of lost animals. When owners are not located, Sangamon County is notified to collect the animal.

Sangamon County Animal Control & Adoption Center

2100 Shale Street
Springfield, IL 62703-5634

Animal Control Phone: 217-535-3065
Emergency After Hours: 217-753-6666

PROJECTS AND UPDATES

The Spring season marks a busy time for the Village departments as they kick off sanctioned infrastructure initiatives.

- **Henkle Drive Project:** In 2021-22, the Village Gas Department installed a new gas main. The department will soon add new residential service lines and meters at an estimated cost of **\$25,000**. Residents have been notified about the initiative. For any questions or concerns, please reach out to the office.
- The Water Department is set to start replacing old mobile **water readers with advanced cellular technology**. This upgrade enables homeowners to receive notifications when a leak occurs and track their water consumption. Over the next four years, this initiative will be rolled out in phases at an annual expense of about **\$83,000**.
- **Hydrant flushing** is scheduled for **April 14 to May 9**. This project helps maintain water quality and system efficiency. By opening the hydrant, accumulated sediment is removed, which, if left unchecked, can affect water pressure and taste.
- Every year, the **Otter Lake Water Commission** delivers a letter outlining the new wholesale member rate. **Effective March 1**, the wholesale member rate will increase from \$5.56 to \$5.73 per 1000 gallons.



617 7th Street
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Springfield, IL
Permit #11

WATER, GAS, AND SEWER EMERGENCIES, CALL



217 625-2941

Village Board & Personnel

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

GAS/WATER DEPARTMENT
Andy Lee *Supervisor*
Brandon Jackson
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

Calendar

Village Board Meeting
April 14 & 28
May 12 & 27
June 9 & 23

Village Office Closed
Memorial Day
May 26

Juneteenth Day
June 19

**Calendar items are subject to change.*

Contact Us

■ 617 7th Street, Pawnee, Illinois 62558 ■ 217 625-2941 ■ vpawnee@comcast.net ■ <https://pawneeil.net/>



PAWNEE NEWS is the official Village of Pawnee newsletter, 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.