

PAWNEE NEWS



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JEFF CLARKE

Join Your Neighbors and Strengthen Our Community

Our village is at its best when neighbors know each other, share ideas, and work together. Civic organizations are the engines that make our community safer, greener, and more vibrant. I invite you to join the efforts of any of the listed organizations. Together, we can build a village where everyone belongs and everyone contributes.

Why get involved?

- Make a real difference: Local groups influence decisions that affect your daily life — from parks, safety initiatives, transportation, and community events.
- Build connections: Meet neighbors, make friends, and strengthen the social fabric of our neighborhoods.
- Learn and lead: Volunteering develops new skills and can open doors to leadership roles and paid opportunities.
- Share your voice: Your perspective helps ensure our village reflects the diversity and needs of everyone who lives here.

Ways to start (no experience required)

- Attend one meeting: See how a group operates and share one idea.
- Volunteer a few hours: Help with events, cleanups, outreach, or mentoring.
- Join a committee/board: Lend your time and expertise to planning and policy.
- Start something new: If you see a need, gather neighbors and create a group to address it.

Learn more by visiting their websites or Facebook pages, or by contacting the Village Office. Thank you for considering how you might help shape our shared future — I hope to see you at a community meeting or event soon.

Pawnee Prairie Days

Pawnee Prairie Days, a 501(c)(4), organizes Pawnee's annual three-day Homecoming. Your vital support sustains this event and our community programs.

Pawnee Fire Department

This volunteer emergency services department trains firefighters who provide fire suppression, rescue, emergency medical assistance, fire prevention, and public safety education.

Pawnee Food Pantry

Celebrating 20 years! See back page for full details.

Pawnee Lions Club

Members plan and participate in a variety of community service projects that benefit scholarships, Christmas Food Baskets, the Country Fair, and more.

Pawnee Masonic Lodge #675

This fraternal organization follows the freemason traditions, which supports community service programs.

Pawnee Women of Today

Volunteer organization devoted to community service. While strengthening our members' individual talents & gaining friendships.

Pawnee Youth Sports

Youth Baseball/Softball League and Youth Basketball League



MAY 28-30 2026

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

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

Water Department Addresses Water Breaks

We truly appreciate the community's patience during the outage and subsequent boil order.

In February, the Village experienced two major watermain breaks. The first was at 8th and Washington Streets, and the second was at 12th and Rutledge Streets. Both were due to ground shifting during freeze-thaw cycles.

The larger break at 8th and Washington occurred at a cross-section, and the entire cross had to be replaced. It was a 16-hour project that required significant excavation and careful repair. Our team worked steadily to isolate the damaged section, make the repair, and restore service as quickly and safely as possible.

This section of the watermain at 8th and Main is part of an area that the Village is actively working to replace. The line was originally installed in the 1940s and is made of cast iron. While age is certainly a factor, cast iron pipe is more rigid and can be more susceptible to cracking during freeze-thaw cycles and ground movement compared to newer materials. While excavating, crews even uncovered an old horseshoe — a small reminder of how long this infrastructure has been in the ground.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CREW

The best way to stay informed is through the FREE Pawnee Alert system.

Alerts are sent only if you are affected; if not, you will not receive one.

Keeping Pawnee Running: Meet the Gas & Water Department Team

Behind the scenes of everyday life in Pawnee is a dedicated team that works hard to ensure residents have safe drinking water and reliable natural gas service. The Village of Pawnee Gas and Water Department is staffed by skilled employees who respond to emergencies, maintain infrastructure, and plan improvements to keep the community running smoothly. Three key team members—**Andrew Lee, Josh McElroy, and Brandon Jackson**—play an important role in maintaining and improving these essential services.

Serving the Community—Day and Night

In addition to their regular duties, the team participates in a weekly on-call rotation to respond to after-hours gas and water emergencies. Whether it's a water main break, a gas odor report, or another urgent issue, the team is always ready to respond. Through their dedication, training, and commitment to the community, the Village of Pawnee Gas and Water Department continues to provide dependable service to residents every day.



ANDY LEE

Gas and Water Supervisor

Andy began his career with the Village of Pawnee as summer help in 2005 and returned again in 2006. His strong work ethic and commitment to the community led to full-time employment in August 2007. Through years of experience and dedication, he was promoted to Gas and Water Supervisor in 2013.

Today, Andy serves as the village's main water operator and holds all gas certifications. A major part of his job is identifying and planning projects that replace aging gas and water mains, helping ensure reliable service and long-term improvements for the community. His knowledge and long-term vision continue to guide the department's efforts to modernize and strengthen the village's utilities.



JOSH MCELROY

Gas and Water Technician

Josh joined the Water and Gas Department in May 2020 and quickly became a vital member of the team. One of his primary responsibilities is responding to JULIE locate requests, where he marks the location of underground gas and water lines to ensure contractors can dig safely without damaging critical infrastructure.

In addition to locates, Josh responds to water leak complaints and gas odor calls from residents, helping address potential problems quickly and safely. Fully certified in the gas department, Josh plays an important role in protecting the community and maintaining the safety of Pawnee's gas system.



BRANDON JACKSON

Gas and Water Technician

Brandon Jackson joined the Water and Gas department in February 2025, bringing valuable experience from his previous work with the Villages of Jerome and Chatham. His strong water department background has proven to be a major asset to the Village.

Brandon has gone above and beyond the expectations of his role by earning his certified water operator license after successfully passing his EPA exam. He has also recently become gas certified, further strengthening the department's ability to safely maintain and operate Pawnee's utility systems. His initiative and dedication to expanding his knowledge have greatly benefited the village and the department.

Yard Waste Disposal

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.

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



ACCEPTABLE ITEMS
Grass Clippings in
Lawn Bags, Tree Limbs,
and Shrubs

Village SPOTLIGHT

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Cameron Excavating
(217) 502-9519
cameronexcavating.net

Cinric Painting
1110 Carroll Street
(217) 498-1322
cinricpainting.com

Pawnee Lumber Company
512 6th Street
(217) 625-2771
pawneelumber.com

CHILD CARE SERVICES

Pawnee Learning Center
308 Carroll Street
(217) 646-8217

Wildflower Child Development Center
707 Carroll Street
(217) 909-9608

GARAGE Sale Pawnee Saturday May 9



Fire Hydrant Flushing
April 13 thru May 1

NEW Municipal Aggregation Program vs. Ameren Rates

In May, the Village will review bids to select a new supplier for the Electric Aggregation program for Pawnee residents. The municipal fixed electric supply rate becomes effective in June, protecting residents for the next 12 months. Residents will receive a letter detailing the program.

No action is needed to remain in the electric aggregation program.



What you should know if you opt out of the Electric Aggregation Program

- Residents can opt out now through May 2026.
It may take one-two billing cycles to be removed.
- Residents will receive Ameren's Supply Rate.
- When a rate and term are announced, residents must opt out each time.
- Residents must wait 12 months to rejoin the municipal electric rate.



Keep informed about significant happenings and daily occurrences

This free, all-in-one notification system keeps you alerted on important happenings - boil orders, service disruptions, street closures, police alerts, emergency situations, and other vital information.

SIGN UP! <https://pawneel.net> | 217-625-2941



Scan the QR Code

Pawnee Food Pantry

Established in 2006, the Pawnee Food Pantry operates as a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Pawnee families facing hardship. Each month, the pantry supports an average of 40 families, totaling 130 individuals. Our doors are open every Monday from 11 AM to 2 PM, with additional evening hours from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on the third Monday of every month.

Donations of food and household essentials can be placed in designated drop boxes located at UCB, FNB, the Library, the Post Office, and Kreckels. Please ensure all donated items are within their expiration dates.

Commonly needed items include canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, soup, cereal, tuna, macaroni and cheese, personal hygiene products, toiletries, paper towels, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

We are fortunate to receive strong backing from local families, businesses, schools, and churches. We welcome new volunteers to join us!



facebook.com/PawneeFoodPantry



704 Carroll (7th and 104)



P.O. Box 304, Pawnee, IL 62558



Celebrating 20 YEARS!



617 7th Street
Pawnee, Illinois 62558



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

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

Village Board & Personnel

Jeff Clarke *Mayor*
Devona Martin *Village Clerk*
Brent Wise *Village Administrator*
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

Travis Simpson *Supervisor*
Matt Turner

STREET DEPARTMENT

Jeff Schober *Supervisor*
Tim Vidmar

UTILITY OFFICE

Brent Wise *Village Administrator*
Kim Nichols *Billing Clerk*
Kelly Haney *Grant Writer/Webmaster*
Michelle Featherston
Sonja Skinner

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Barclay Harris *Chief*
Charles Barber
Eric Bertoni
Joshua Ibberson
Corey Reynolds
Clyde Ross

Calendar

VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS

April 13 & 27
May 11 & 25
June 8 & 22

VILLAGE OFFICE CLOSED

May 25 - Memorial Day
June 19 - Juneteenth

May 9 - Pawnee Garage Sale
May 28-30 - Pawnee Prairie Days

Dates subject to change

Contact Us

■ 617 7th Street, Pawnee, Illinois 62558

■ 217 625-2941

■ vpawnee@comcast.net

■ <https://pawneeil.net/>