The Official Newsletter of the Village of Pawnee, Illinois *Fall 2026*

PAWNEE NEWS

A MESSAGE FROM
ANDY LEE, PAWNEE WATER & GAS SUPERVISOR

As Gas and Water Supervisor, I want to share where our water system came from, the work that has been done over the years, and why the need to keep investing in it is so very important.

The Village has more than **27 miles of water main** throughout the community. Much of the original system was installed in the mid-1940s using cast iron pipe, and some of that original water main is still in service today. This has served Pawnee well for more than 80 years, but age and corrosion are taking its toll.

REPLACING THE OLD PIPE IS NOT A NEW EFFORT.

In the early 1980s, former Water Supervisor **Dave Aumiller** started replacing sections of the original system and continued that work through the 1990s. A substantial amount of the water main was replaced during that time.

Mike Howard continued the work when he took over, including replacing the water main along Fourth St. from 104 to Jefferson, a section of Penn St., and Fifth St. from Penn to Jefferson. **Jason Clauser** also prioritized water main replacement during his tenure as Supervisor. This included a major project along the highway that replaced aging infrastructure, corrected several long-standing issues, and strengthened the system's reliability.

Since 2013, I have continued my predecessors' approach by replacing sections of original water main as funding and resources allow. Projects included replacing the water main along Washington Street from 5th Street to 1st Street and, most recently, replacing and extending the water main along San Terra Road this summer. In 2023, the Village completed one of its largest projects, replacing about 7,550 feet of water main serving 121 residential properties and the school.





THE GOAL IS TO REPLACE THE REMAINING WATER MAINS.

Today, approximately **10,000 feet of the original cast iron water main** remains. Recent water main breaks remind us why this work matters. In some locations, the original cast iron pipe has deteriorated and corroded to the point that breaks are becoming more common. When we replace one section, we are not just fixing a problem for today. We are making an investment that should benefit the Village for decades.

Water main replacement improves water quality and pressure, reduces leaks and main breaks, and improves the amount of water available for fire protection. Each project also means one less section of 80-year-old pipe employees will need to maintain and repair.

I want to recognize the work of **Dave Aumiller, Mike Howard, and Jason Clauser**. They played an important part in replacing Pawnee's aging water infrastructure. The work we are doing today builds on what they started years ago.

We still have a lot of work ahead of us. Replacing the remaining original pipe will not happen overnight, but we are making progress. With the continued support of the Mayor and Village Board, our department will keep working through these projects one section at a time, with the goal of leaving Pawnee with a stronger and more dependable water system for the future.

Keeping Pawnee's Sewer System Running



The Village has about 90,269 feet of gravity-flow sewer main and 14,442 feet of force main, for nearly 20 miles of sewer main throughout the system. Gravity-flow mains move wastewater naturally downhill, while force mains use pumps to move wastewater through areas where gravity alone is not enough. The original sewer system was installed between 1972 and 1976 and was expanded in the years that followed as additional subdivisions were developed. The Pawnee Senior Homes are the most recent addition to the system.

Scheduled maintenance and cleaning of sewer lines and lift stations ensure the system continues to operate properly. The Village currently operates eight lift stations, with pumps ranging in size from 2.5 horsepower to 25 horsepower. These lift stations collect wastewater at lower points in the system and pump it through force mains toward the treatment system.

The Village also performs maintenance on its lagoon system to help reduce organic buildup and extend the useful life of the lagoons. This work includes mapping the ponds using GIS and sonar technology to monitor pond depth and identify areas of buildup. That information allows the Village to better target treatment and maintenance efforts and help preserve the capacity and lifespan of the lagoon system.

By staying ahead of maintenance needs today, the Village protects this important community infrastructure, avoid larger problems in the future, and continues providing reliable sewer service for Pawnee residents for years to come.



Original sewer system installed between 1972-1976



90,269 feet gravity-flow sewer main



14,442 feet force main

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT



Bring your recyclables and help keep Pawnee clean!

- **SATURDAY OCTOBER 24, 2026**
- **9 AM TO NOON**
- **SOUTH SIDE OF VILLAGE SQUARE** (Enter on Lincoln St.)
- **$10 PER DROP-OFF**
- **OPEN TO ALL VILLAGE OF PAWNEE RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES**

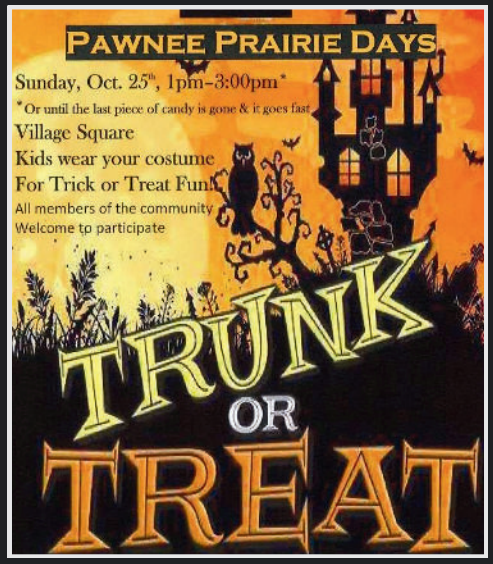
ACCEPTED ITEMS (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO)

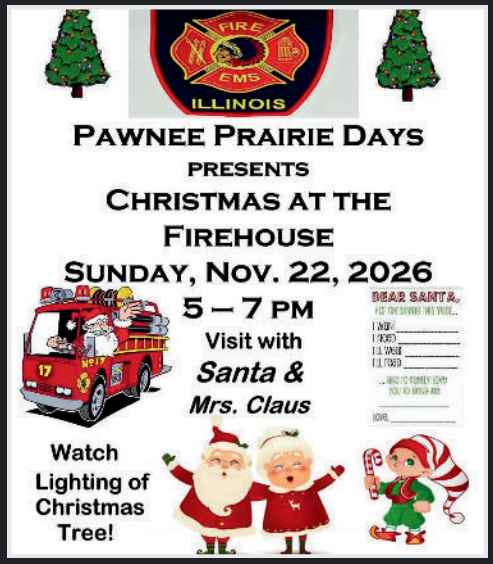
- CRT, Projection, Plasma, Flatscreen TVs and Monitors
- Computers, Printers, Cables and Peripherals
- Fax Machines, Scanners and Receivers
- Home Electronics, Humidifiers, Blenders, Toasters, etc.
- Video Game Consoles, DVD players, VCRs, Stereos
- Metal Office Furniture, Minifridges, De-humidifiers
- Lead Acid Batteries

NOT ACCEPTED ITEMS

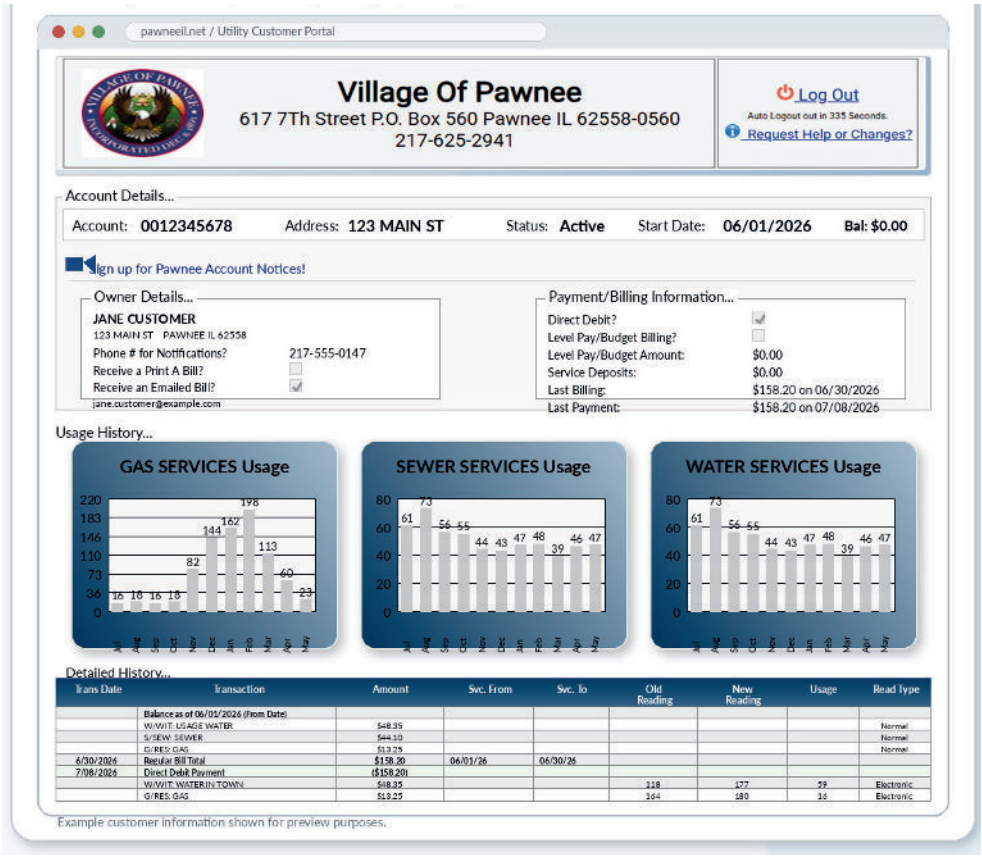
- Non-Electronics
- Smoke/CO Detectors
- Hazardous, Flammable or Radioactive Materials
- Lightbulbs
- DVDs, VHSs, CDs, Cassettes
- Medications







Access Your Village Account Online



Explore the Village utility customer portal today for convenient, anytime access to your utility account. Review current and past invoices, reprint bills, monitor your water, sewer, and gas consumption, set alerts for new bills or charges, and get notifications confirming your payments—all in one easy online platform.

Contact the Village Office to update your email address or if you need assistance.

ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT

1. Access the portal at www.pawneeil.net or scan the QR code.
2. Select "Account Portal" square located in the "Resource Center" section on the home page.
3. Sign in using your utility account number and email address.

DID YOU KNOW WE OFFER EMAIL BILLING?

- Skip the Post Office.
- Get your bill sent to your inbox.
- No more lost or mangled bills.



Call the Village office or email us at vpawnee2@comcast.net and sign up today!

EXPLORE TODAY!

Village SPOTLIGHT

EXCAVATING / CONCRETE OPERATORS

BLack Diamond Earthmovers, Inc.
blackdiamondearthmovers@gmail.com
(217) 825-9721

Cameron Excavating
cameronexcavate@gmail.com
(217) 502-9519

Horrighs Concrete
thomashorrigh@gmail.com
(217) 652-2706

Langheim Concrete Service Inc.
langheimconcrete@hotmail.com
(217) 625-7779

WELCOME!

JUMBO SNOW SHACK
Pawnee, IL

JUMBO SNOW SHACK
Located on the southeast corner of the square

Follow on Facebook for hours.



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://pawneeil.net | 217-625-2941

Scan the QR Code



EMERGENCY ALERTS
Official Village ESDA Facebook Page

Pawnee ESDA shares emergency preparedness tips, storm and shelter information, post-storm resources, and other helpful updates to keep Pawnee informed, prepared, and connected when it matters most.



Halloween Hours
OCTOBER 30-31 / 6:00 - 8:00 PM

617 7th Street
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

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

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

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/PARKS 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
October 12 & 26
November 9 & 23
December 14

VILLAGE OFFICE CLOSED
November 11 - Veterans Day
November 26-27 - Thanksgiving Day
December 24-25 - Christmas Day
December 31-January 1-
New Year's Day

Dates subject to change

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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.