

## VILLAGE OF ALPHA'S NEWSLETTER OUT AND ABOUT IN 2018

**Hello!!** and welcome to another edition of the Village of Alpha Newsletter. Let's see if we can't bring you up to date on some of the things going on around town.

### **Real Estate:**

Many homes have been bought or sold here in town lately. Several sold in the last few months, thus bringing new faces to town. Let us welcome our new residents and make them feel at home. Glad they chose our town!! If you are new to the area, check out our website at [www.villageofalpha.org](http://www.villageofalpha.org) . There is so much information on it that pertains specifically to new residents. Several homes that had previously sat vacant have been purchased and are in the process of being rehabilitated!!!

### **ACT:**

**Alpha Community Team** is still going strong and doing so much for our little town! But we are desperate for more volunteers. (Remember we get back what we put in). Your help would be greatly appreciated for the many projects. Contact Tracy Peterson, chairman, or just show up. Watch for notices. They also sponsor events throughout the year. Beautification awards, (there are so many lovely yards it is sometimes hard to choose), annual yard sales, and don't forget the "Spirit of Alpha" that was held on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. This year was an all-day affair that ended with the Lighted Parade and followed by the Sons of the American Legion dance. Fun was had by all and we are looking forward to next year's event. Don't forget to check out their Facebook page and watch for more information on the Village's website ([www.villageofalpha.org](http://www.villageofalpha.org))

### **Our Christmas Festival:**

The committee will be meeting again soon for more planning. The **Festival** will be held on Sat. **Dec 1st** at the American Legion. More details later. If you would like to sponsor a tree or be among the home lighting contest contact Edna Mahalovich at (309)629-9201 or Tracy Peterson. The Spirit of Alpha Christmas Celebration is also hosting a **Trivia Night** at the Oxford American Legion on **October 13th**! Doors open at 6:00pm and trivia begins at 6:30. Price is \$10 per person with table sponsorship opportunities available. Beverages will be available from the American Legion. Bring your own snacks and enjoy some friendly competition while helping raise money for a great community event! GET YOUR TEAMS TOGETHER NOW!!

### **Legion/Community Center:**

Thanks to the generous donations, dinners, and many, many hours put in by our wonderful people, the remodeling project is still progressing quite well. There is still much to be done, so please continue your support of our Legion. The next fundraising event that the American Legion Post 1197 is sponsoring is a biscuits and gravy **breakfast** and will be held on Veteran's Day **SATURDAY NOV 10<sup>th</sup>** from 8 am to 11 am with a **flag ceremony** at 11:30 am.

## **Organizations:**

There again THANKS to those who work with our organizations. Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, Community Dinners, Churches, Lion's Club, Volunteer Fireman & EMT's, Thurs night 'Grub at the Gazebo' (another ACT project) and others. I am sorry if we might be forgetting some but a great Big Thank You.

## **Around Town**

We have had more sidewalk repairs. Thank you for your patience. By doing a little at a time we can keep maintaining our walks to make things look much nicer, but most of all easier for walking. Watch for more alley repairs coming soon!!

The Village Board sponsored the annual Ice Cream Social on Sept. 9th at the Gazebo Park. The fireman joined them and sold pork chop sandwich meals. "The Hitman" was there again to entertain and he did a great job as usual. It was a fantastic evening.

## **Water Projects & Rates**

And now for the real reason for the letter this year. If you have noticed we have been upgrading the underground water storage tank. Instead of replacing we are rehabbing. Simply put: we cleaned, removed old pipe, repaired cracks, replaced support beams that were about to rust completely through, replaced old valves and finally coated the whole inside of the tank with an impermeable, pliable coating. The next project will hopefully be the rehab of the Water tower. If we don't take care of our facility, it will cost us more in the long run.

A couple of years ago we replaced the old wooden storage tank and tried to use as much of our own resources as much as possible to pay for the project. Now we are facing two more projects that could possibly cost well over \$150 to \$200 thousand. So, to that end, we are looking at raising our water rates in order to maintain the facilities we have and to continue to provide safe drinking water.

**Effective October 1, 2018**, our rates will increase from an average of \$1.11 per day to \$1.44 per day. Our rates are still by far much less than many of our neighbors and other villages of our size. We are doing our best to keep our costs down but we have to be able to maintain our equipment and facility without putting our great town into debt.

Thanks for reading!!

The Village of Alpha Board