

## ALPHA UPDATE

### 2020

The Village of Alpha has continued to meet through the Coronavirus Pandemic in accordance with the Covid-19 guidelines. We have altered our meeting place to the Legion on several occasions in order to comply with the Social Distancing and mask wearing requirements. Some of the highlights in the past few months have included the completion of the rehab on the overhead water tower. Beautiful! Don't you think?

The bills have all been paid for this project with help from our local Farmers State Bank.

Another project that has almost come to fruition is the replacing of all the water meters in the system to a radio read type. There are about 5 meters left to install but coordination must be accomplished between the installer and the resident. Some people are harder to contact than others. If you are reading this and have not had your meter installed, please contact 309-629-9881 and leave a message with the number that you can be reached. We will contact you in return and make arrangements to get your new meter installed. After all meters are installed and the "bugs" are worked out, the village is contemplating going to a monthly billing system in order for residents to budget appropriately and avoid one large bill every quarter. Both of these projects together have nearly depleted our Water and Sewer accounts so a loan from Farmers State Bank was secured to make sure we can make ends meet should



another problem arise. Currently Jeff Kessinger, the Village Superintendent of Public Works, is working towards eliminating or severely cutting back on the emissions of the water reservoir located on West E Street. The older model reservoir that was located there did not "scrub" the water as efficiently as the newer model does. Therefore, there is more of a raw water smell. Preliminary costs have ranged from around \$6000 to over \$40,000. However, neither one has been tested or researched enough to provide direction in how to proceed. Mr. Kessinger is in the process of contacting the companies involved in the construction of the reservoir to ascertain their experience with other entities who have installed this particular type of "scrubber". Hopefully they should have some answers soon.

Another project that we accomplished this year is some rehab at the sewer lagoon. The tiles under the sand filters in the third pool had become silted in and we jetted them out. Sounds simple but it took two days and thousands of gallons of water. It also took several man hours and some specialized equipment.



Through a tax sale, the village had purchased an abandoned house on North 1st Street and sequentially removed the house and seeded down the lot. We put the lot up for sealed bid, however, the bids received were well below the market value. To that end we rejected all the bids and have listed the lot for sale at \$5000. All costs for the sale of this lot will be borne by the buyer. If you are interested in a nice 75.5 x 135 lot with access through the alley, please contact the village at (309) 629-9881.

The village also had purchased a property on South Second Street near West F Street. The purchase was made in hopes of turning this lot into a playground and family park on the west side of the village. We are currently seeking grants to help with the construction costs.

**AROUND TOWN:** This year the village has started to repair some of the more critical sidewalk sections. They also have completed the crack sealing on their streets in order to keep them from absorbing water and damaging the base under the streets. We look forward to next year for more street and sidewalk repairs.

**POLICE:** The Police department has had some changes and now we have 2 part-time officers on patrol. At the meeting on September 8th, we regretfully accepted the resignation of Mark Bethell effective October 31st. Mark was the first part-time officer for Alpha and his dedication and assistance will be greatly missed. Make sure to give Mark a tip of the hat or a wave of Gratitude for his service here in Alpha. Mayor/Police Administrator Kernan and the Police Committee will be working on filling his position as soon as possible.

The Police Department has been trying to take care of complaints of abandoned vehicles and accumulating "junk" on properties around Alpha. Courtesy letters were sent out asking the residents to please clean up their properties. After a month or more, they are now visiting each violator and informing them that citations and fines will be forthcoming. To those of you who complied, we gratefully THANK YOU!

**PERSONNEL:** There have been some personnel changes with the village board as well. Trustee Alan Wendt has moved out of the area and therefore was not eligible to continue as a Trustee for the Village. However, he has continued to serve as an IT person for the village. He maintains the website and posts changes as directed. Many times, he is the one who receives the occasional e-mail that is sent to the village for a response. Alan's position was gratefully filled by Leigh Brinson. She has stepped up the challenge of local governing in this strange time.

**PERSONNEL: (CONT'D)** Another personnel change coming is the Village Clerk position. Tracy Perterson has moved away from Alpha and will not be eligible to run for the office of Clerk. She is still acting in this position and would be willing to train a new person.

At this time I would like to THANK the part-time summer helpers we have had this year: Michael Hinerichsen and Tyler Lynch, as well as Dave Lambin who filled in for Jeff in several capacities.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES:** This year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many activities have been severely curtailed or cancelled. However, the Alpha Community Team (A.C.T.) announced that the Lighted Parade would go on as usual. However, they asked all residents to use masks and social distancing while observing the parade. They also asked that no handouts or candy be distributed at the parade as well. The parade was held Saturday, Sept 12 starting at dusk. Line up was at the grade school and the parade proceeded south on North Scandia, turn west on D Street, continued to South 2nd St, then north on South 2nd St to West A Street. From there they turned East and continue back to the grade school.

In other village activities, the village set Trick or Treating on October 31st from 6pm to 8pm. Residents who did not want to participate were encouraged to keep their porch lights turned off. Trick or Treaters were to limit their contact with others. All were encouraged to wear facial coverings even under their Halloween mask. As usual, if anyone felt unsafe, they were asked not to participate. High risk people or people who may have symptoms were also encouraged not to participate. Indoor Trunk or Treating was not be allowed. However outdoor Trunk or Treating seemed to work as long as Trick or Treaters allowed for Social Distancing and wore facial coverings.

There are a couple of events in our future that we need your help and participation.

1. 2020 Christmas event at the American Legion on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. Because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, this event promises to be a slightly different format than from previous years. See the attached flyer for more details
2. Coming in September 2022, Alpha will be celebrating their Sesquicentennial Birthday. A committee is beginning to form and your help is greatly needed to make this a celebration your kids will talk about for 25 years. If you would like to be a part of this steering committee, please leave a message at the village hall and we will contact you with more information. All ideas are welcome and the more people that get involved the more memorable the event will be.



Speaking of personnel; the Consolidated Election dates were announced for April 6, 2021. This year the Village Board has **4 Trustee positions** up for election. One of which will be for the unexpired term of Alan Wendt. That term is for 2 years while the other three are for a full 4-year term. Other 4-year term offices up for election is the **Village President** and the **Village Clerk**. If you are at all interested in these positions, please contact the Village at 309-629-9881 and leave your name and what position you are interested in. We will contact you in return so you may pick up a candidate's pack. The pack includes a petition to be signed by electors from the village. This is the process to get your name placed on the ballot. Petitions are due back to the Village for filing at the County Clerk's office before Dec 21, 2020.

Thank You For Reading!!

Your Village Board Trustees:

Tena Anseuw    Leigh Brinson    Becky Brown

Ron Medley    Mike Petrovich    Dennis Shannon

Dean Kernan, President    Tracy Peterson, Clerk    Steve Norberg, Treasurer and

Jeff Kessinger, Superintendent of Public Works

Angie Althaus, Water Billing Clerk    Alan Wendt, IT

Police Officers: Bryce Frenell and Tamera Fox

# 5th ANNUAL ALPHA

## Spirit of Alpha CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

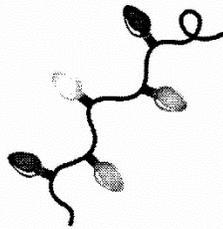
Saturday, December 5, 2020

This year, due to the continuing COVID-19 health crisis and current social distancing requirements, we will not have the indoor events held at the Legion as in the past.

INSTEAD WE WILL HAVE THE FOLLOWING CONTESTS FOR ANYONE TO ENTER :

### HOME LIGHTING CONTEST

Decorate your home/yard with lights, displays, etc



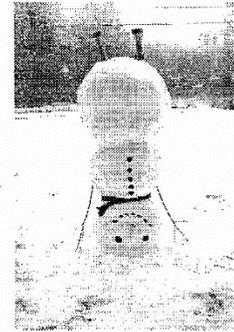
### FRONT DOOR / PORCH CONTEST

Decorate your front door for the holidays with a wreath or other decorations...light it up with Christmas lights or flood light so it can be seen at night....be creative!



### SNOWMAN CONTEST

Decorate a snowman cutout, stack up something creative to make a snowman, light it up with a flood light or other lights so it can be seen at night in your yard.... Use your imagination!



**CASH PRIZES totaling \$500 will be awarded to 3 winners in each category.**

*Independent judges will be out judging on Thurs night Dec 3rd/Friday night Dec 4th. Winners will be announced on Sat Dec 5 & prizes awarded.*

For more info or questions contact Edna at 309-629-9201 OR Tena at 309-781-0371.

*It is recommended that you register above in the contests, but not mandatory.*

### SANTA'S MAILBOX !!!

*There will be a mailbox located at the Gazebo for Santa letters to be forwarded to the North Pole!!!*

