

ALPHA UPDATE

2024

Hello All,

It has been a few years since our last Newsletter and a couple of years since we mailed an Update. So I hope we can fill you in on a few things happening around the town and a few new ordinances.

First, we have been spending most of our resources on a sewer rehabilitation project. In our last letter, we had just finished jetting out the underground tiles that drains the water out of our “finishing” pond. However, after a few weeks the water flow started to slow. So, we again drained the water down and replaced the filter media (coarse sand) and put in all new tile and piping. So far that seems to be holding but it also became evident that the first pond of our lagoon system was silting in and needed to be dredged out. We found a company that could do this but at issue was the cost of trucking out the waste. This contractor had a way to actually place the dredgings in a cloth tube, let them dry and then eventually spread them on a farm field. (with the blessing of the Illinois EPA of course.)

During our dredging process, we found the aeration system that was a part of the beginning life of our waste water system was failing as well. To make it simple, the aeration system are weighted hoses that have compressed air forced into them and they bubble up through the waste so it would disintegrate faster. (YUK!) This could have been the issue as to the shortened length of time for our finishing pond filter system. So, we hired an engineering firm that specializes in these projects and went to work finding products and contractors who can install these new systems. This new aeration system will be a complete overhaul of the existing system. All new bubblers, pipes, manifolds and newer, more efficient air compressors will be installed sometime before Fall 2024. We are in hope that this will complete any upgrades to this lagoon system for many more years.



In our last letter, the village 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 still seeking grants to help with the construction costs. However, if someone would like to spearhead a committee to turn this area into a park or water feature or splash pad or??, please contact us A.S.A.P.

AMENDED ORDINANCES: The most recent amendment to our village ordinances is coined as the CHICKEN/RABBIT ordinance. Actually it is Animals other Than Dogs or Cats. We never felt the need to have an ordinance until the popularity of raising chickens in town became much more “fashionable”. LOL Here are the main points of the ordinance: 1. in a Residentially zoned property- maximum of 6 chickens or 6 mature rabbits, 2. no roosters, 3. must be kept in an enclosure and fenced area at all times, 4. no pen or coop within 10 ft of property line or 20 ft from any occupied residence other than the owner, 5. all areas shall be kept clean and sanitary, 6. all feed shall be kept in rodent proof containers until put out for consumption and 7. all chickens or rabbits shall be kept in the rear yard. Any property zoned Agriculture is not restricted to 6 Chickens/Rabbits; however, all other rules of chickens or rabbits pertains to Residential or Agriculture.

PROHIBITED ANIMALS: No person may keep cattle, sheep, goats, horses, mules, swine, including potbellied pigs, pigeons, any species of geese, ducks, turkeys, guinea hens, or exotic animals of any breed.

Beekeeping is also prohibited in the Village as well.

THE EFFECTIVE DATE of this amendment is **60 days effective from June 10, 2024**. Each day of non-compliance will result in a \$100 fine plus court costs. A copy of the ordinance is available on our website and posted in the lobby of the US Post Office in Alpha.

TREE ORDINANCE: Did you know that there is a list of trees that you can or can’t plant on Village ROW?

In the past few years, we have spent thousands and thousands of dollars removing and trimming large trees off of our ROW that were planted years ago. The list is available online but you can call our office for approval before you plant. Basically, there should be no trees planted that can reach the height of 40 ft. Trees that reach the height of 20 to 30 ft are preferred..

GOLF CART ORDINANCE: Several years ago, we passed an ordinance allowing golf carts to be used within the village. All carts must be inspected by the Police Administrator or the assigned person, receive a permit and a special number. Any carts found without a Village of Alpha permit are subject to fines. An application for the golf cart permit is available at the village hall. Anyone operating a cart must be 16 yrs. old, comply with the speed limit in town (20 MPH) and abide by all of the rules of the ordinance.

SNOWMOBILE ROUTE: A couple of years ago we passed an ordinance to allow snowmobiles to follow a specific path through town. Look for the orange arrows on “A” Street, “B” Street and 2nd St that marks the path.

AROUND TOWN: This year the village continues to repair some of the more critical sidewalk sections. And will be completing some patching in some streets and alleys. Thank You Mike Petrovich for overseeing our Streets and Alleys maintenance.

POLICE: The Village 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 some time, another letter will be sent to the violator informing them that citations and fines will be forthcoming. We will be contacting our attorney to attach your fines to your water bill. Unpaid fines could result in the loss of village services (Water and Sewer). To those of you who complied, we gratefully THANK YOU!

PERSONNEL: We have had a huge change in the Village Officials department. After over 40 years as Village Treasurer, Steve Norberg has retired from his position. We are so Thankful for all his knowledge and guidance throughout all these years. If you see him around, please thank him for his service to our community.

Lindsi Brooks was selected to fill the vacancy of Village Treasurer.

At this time I would like to THANK the part-time summer helper we have had this year: Ty Anderson, as well as Dave Lambin who filled in for Jeff in several capacities.

Also Thanks to Dennis Shannon assisting Jeff in the "not so beautiful" tasks especially around the lagoon!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: The Alpha Community Team (A.C.T.) announced that the **Lighted Parade** would go on as usual on September 14th at Dusk. Line up at the grade school and the parade proceeds east on East A then turns South on N Yates St, then West on D Street, continues to North 2nd St, then north on North 2nd St to West A Street. From there they turn East and continue back to the grade school. ACT will raise funds with their **Annual Duck Derby** at Crescent Lake again this year on Aug 31st. You have to come out and see this!! Then watch for more information for the **Spirit of Alpha activities** on West "D" Street to be held Sept 14th!

Following up on our Spirit of Alpha Days Celebration, the Village board would like to invite you to their Annual Ice Cream Social at the Gazebo Park on Sunday, Sept 15th from 1 pm to 3 pm. There will also be live music provided by The Hitman.

In other village activities, the village set Trick or Treating on October 31st from 6pm to 8pm. Residents who do not want to participate are encouraged to keep their porch lights turned off.

2024 **Christmas Celebration** at the American Legion on Dec 7th. Watch for more details later.

As a way to fund this Christmas Celebration, there will be a **Trivia game** where teams compete for prizes and the privilege to brag for the year of how much trivial things they remembered. The games will be held at the Legion on Nov. 2nd this year

PAST EVENTS Alpha celebrated their **Sesquicentennial Birthday**. What a parade and huge success this "party" turned out to be. A big Thank You to Edna And Jason for spearheading the committee to make the celebration the success that it was.

The **Annual Car Show** set a record this year for the number of participants. There were over 197 registered cars but at least 20 others did not register. The weather was AWESOME and Jim Luallen has put in his order for the same weather next year on May 10th 2025! Thank you, Jim and committee, for promoting our village!!



The Consolidated Election dates will be held April 1, 2025. These are the elections where your Village board is elected. Offices that are up for election will be the Village Board President, the Village Clerk and three Village Trustees. 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 in early Dec 2024.

Thank You For Reading!!

Your Village Board Trustees:

Tena Anseuw John Duvejonck Becky Brown

Ron Medley Mike Petrovich Dennis Shannon

Dean Kernan, President Wendy Swanson, Clerk Lindsy Brooks, Treasurer and

Jeff Kessinger, Superintendent of Public Works

Angie Althaus, Water Billing Clerk Alan Wendt, IT