

ALPHA UPDATE

Hello All,

It has been a few months since our last Newsletter. So, we are sending out a quick note to UPDATE you on a few changes going on in Alpha and, to save some money on postage, enclosing a Cross Connection survey.

The Cross Connection survey is an Illinois EPA requirement to ask each of you to review your water supply system in your homes and businesses. Some of you ask what do you mean by “Cross Connection”? A Cross Connection is a connection between a drinking water system and a non-drinkable source, such as a plumbing fixture or equipment. If there was a complete drop in water pressure a connection to a non-potable water source could back up into the village’s water supply. This could cause very costly damage to our system and the offender will be charged for all clean-up costs. The best way to avoid creating a cross connection is to make sure there is some sort of an air gap between our supply and your equipment. Two very common cross connections are leaving a shower head in a bathtub full of dirty water. If our water supply were to suddenly drop, the bathwater could be siphoned into our system. Another easy one is filling your pool. Make sure your garden hose is not laying on the bottom of the pool.

Please fill out these required surveys and turn them into the village hall 102 South 2nd St. by April 1, 2025.

We have recently completed our Wastewater Lagoon project. We have been spending our money as wisely as possible without having to borrow. The Sewer Rehab fees you have been paying on your water bill helped to fund this huge project. We started this project a couple of years ago and took each step carefully, looking at all the options available to save money. The project included Sludge removal, sand filter replacement, EPA permits, engineering fees, building rehab for the new blowers, new aeration equipment and installation. A huge thanks go out to Jeff Kessinger, Dennis Shannon and Mike Petrovich for all their labor on this project. The complete total on this project was a little **under \$613, 000!!** So far, the effluence testing has been great and our monthly power bill for running the blowers has dropped significantly. We feel this was the best route to take since a total replacement would have cost millions.

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: Don't forget the Chicken and Rabbit ordinance went into effect on Aug 10, 2024. Please abide by this Ordinance if you haven't already. As a reminder, there are to be no coops or pens in your front yard. This would mean the yard immediately in front or beside your residence that faces the street in front of your house. Check online for the ordinance's specifics.

WATER/SEWER RATES: Recently the village board approved some changes to the Water and Sewer rates and bill collecting. The basic rate will remain the same. However, changes have been made to the late fee and water shut-off fees and an increase in fees for usage over 1100 gallons a month. Water bills paid after the due date will have a \$25 penalty. After 30 days of non-payment, the water will be turned off and a \$50 turn-on fee will be added. **These new policies will take effect May 1, 2025.**

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.

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

GOLF CART ORDINANCE: Is still in effect and any carts in town must have a permit.

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.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: 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. Illinois Election Board threw us a curve ball last year and we found out that all election petitions were due to our village clerk in late November. However, three people are running for the open President's seat and all other offices have people who are running for those positions as well.

The Annual Car Show will be held as usual the Saturday before Mother's Day.

The Alpha Community Team (A.C.T.) announced that the **Lighted Parade** would go on as usual on September 13th at Dusk. 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 14th 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.

2025 Christmas Celebration at the American Legion on Dec 6th. Watch for more details later.

Thank You For Reading!! Your Village Board Trustees: Tena Anseuuw, John Dujevonck, Becky Brown, Ron Medley, Mike Petrovich, Dennis Shannon

Dean Kernan, President Wendy Swanson, Clerk Lindsi Brooks, Treasurer

Jeff Kessinger, Superintendent of Public Works Angie Althaus, Water Billing Clerk Alan Wendt, IT