

Newsletter

Village of Alpha

SPRING 2026

• WEBSITE: VILLAGEOFALPHA.ORG • PHONE: 309-629-9881 • EMAIL: VILLAGEOFALPHA@GMAIL.COM

Greetings

Hello neighbors! I'm honored to serve as the new Mayor of our Village, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the trust you've placed in me. Our community is built on the strength of it's people, your dedication, your ideas and your willingness to look out for one another. I'm excited to work alongside you as we continue work improving the place we call home. In the months ahead, you'll see updates on our village channels (website and Facebook) as we continue work on projects and improve day-to-day services. Thank you again for the privilege of serving you.

I'd like to extend a HUGE Thank YOU to Mayor Dean Kernan for his years of service, dedication and commitment to the Village. Your hard work and mentorship has been a great asset to the Village. Enjoy your free time!

Police

In July the board approved to hire Officer Sarah (SJ) VanHollebeke. She comes with many years of experience and expertise. Since the Village has been without a police officer for a few years, it was a long process to get her up and going. We are excited to have her part of the Village. Welcome SJ!



Personnel

This year, Jeff Kessinger, the Village Superintendent of Public Works, will celebrate his 10-year anniversary with the Village. Jeff is a tremendous asset to our community. His hard work, dedication, unwavering commitment, and depth of knowledge has played a vital role in the success of many projects and in shaping our continued progress. If you see Jeff, thank him for all he does!

We would also like to THANK last years part-time summer helper, Lucas Cain, as well as Dave Lambin, and Dave Althaus.

Last year we welcomed our newly elected Village Clerk, Heather DeShane. We would like to extend our appreciation to former Clerk, Wendy Swanson, for her service to the Village. With the election of Mayor Brown, a trustee seat became vacant and Brad Barton was appointed to fill the position. Brad is a lifelong resident of Alpha, and we are pleased to have him serving our community.

Utility Billing

Bills, bills, bills, no one enjoys them, but with the rising costs of repairs, materials, wages, and supplies, water rates must also adjust. Even with these increases, our rates remain lower than those in many surrounding communities. New water rates will go into effect on May 1, 2026, and will be posted on the Village website and at Village Hall.

On the topic of billing, the Village has been working behind the scenes to identify a new utility billing software provider. Our current provider was acquired two years ago, and the replacement program offered has not met the Village's needs. As a result, we have been actively searching for a more reliable and user-friendly solution.

Our utility billing clerk, Angie Althaus dedicated many hours to researching options, contacting vendors, and meeting with other municipalities to seek out a new billing provider. Implementation with the new system is now underway, and we anticipate full transition by the end of July. Residents will notice several new features, including customer portal, e-billing, pay by e-check, credit/debit card, and the ability to receive notices such as boil orders, sent via email or text. For updates, please visit our website, follow our Facebook page, and **review the information on your bill**. Thank you to Angie for her hard work on this project.



Streets & Improvements

Repairs to sidewalk sections on West A Street and the alley's near "The Office" have been completed. This year's projects include painting parking stripes in the business district on D Street, along with additional improvements to sidewalks and alleys. Thank you Mike Petrovich for overseeing the maintenance of our streets and alleys.

Last Fall an additional bay in the Village garage received new concrete. The next phase of improvements will focus on constructing a shop for our Public Works Superintendent. Once completed, this project will wrap up the major portion of the planned building upgrades.

With the help of Trustees Dennis Shannon and Mike Petrovich, along with Superintendent Public Works, Jeff Kessinger, a dedicated Police office and additional storage space have now been established.

Water/Sewer

Since the completion of the Wastewater Lagoon Rehab Project, maintenance and upkeep continue to be a priority. This year, planned improvements include work on the interior of the water tower.

At the start of the year, Board Member, Dennis Shannon stepped in to assist with water and sewer responsibilities during Jeff's extended absence. We also received support from Dusty McKeag, Public Works Director from the Village of Woodhull. We extend our sincere Thanks to Dennis for his continued dedication to the Village and to Dusty for generously offering his time and assistance.

The 2025 Water Quality Report is now available at www.ilrwa.org/CCR/Alpha.pdf. To speak with someone about this report or to request a copy, call 309-629-9881. You can view the report posted at the Alpha Post Office and at Village Hall.

Got Stuff?

The Police department will be sending letters out asking residents to please clean up their properties with abandoned vehicles and accumulating “junk”. The Nuisances Ordinance (Title 5 , Article 1) can be found on the Village website. This Article outlines Nuisances on Private Property, Non-Operating Vehicles and Weeds. In the past, the Village has handled these issues and most times are resolved. We need everyone’s help keeping Alpha an attractive place to live. Thank you to those who complied, we gratefully Thank You!

Recycling

Recycling bins are picked up each week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please remember to break down all boxes so they lay flat, this helps ensure there’s enough room for everyone to use the bins. No items should ever be placed outside the bins. If the bins are full, please wait until the next pickup day before adding more recyclables. For a full list of accepted and non-accepted items, please visit the Village of Alpha website.



Golf Cart Permits

Golf Cart renewal letters were mailed at the beginning of April. Any new carts must be inspected. An application for a golf cart permit can be obtained by emailing or calling village hall. Any carts found without a Village of Alpha permit are subject to fines.

Solicitors

Solicitors are required to obtain a permit with the Village before conducting any door-to-door solicitation. All approved permits can be viewed on the Village website, located on the home page under the calendar. If you encounter a solicitor who does not have a permit, please contact Henry County Sherriff’s Office Non-Emergency line at 309-937-3911.

Animals

The Village Dog and Cat Ordinance (Title 4, Article 3) does not include a traditional “leash law”. However, it does require that pets be under the owner’s control at all times. A dog or cat becomes a nuisance if it is allowed to disturb the peace, run across any yard or garden etc. You can read the full ordinance on the Village website.

Our animals other than dogs and cats ordinance, often nicknamed the Chicken and Rabbit ordinance (Title 4, Article 2), has been in place for nearly two years. As a quick reminder, coops and pens are not allowed in front yards. This would mean the yard immediately in front or beside your residence that faces the street in front of your house. For full details and specifics, please visit the Village website and review the complete ordinance.

Did you know the Village also maintains a list of prohibited animals? No person may keep cattle, sheep, goats, horses, mules, swine, including potbellied pigs, pigeons, any species of geese, ducks, turkeys, guinea pigs, or exotic animals of any breed. Beekeeping is also prohibited within the Village.



Car Show

The 18th Annual Alpha Car Show and Thrifty on 150 yard sales is Saturday, May 9th from 9am-3pm.

Ice Cream Social

The Alpha Annual Ice Cream Social will be held on Sunday, August 2nd from 5pm-7pm at the Gazebo. "Even Steven" will be performing, so bring your lawn chair and enjoy a relaxing evening. In the event of rain, the Social will move to the Legion. The Village Board will be serving ice cream, and cookies.

America 250

In 2026, our nation will celebrate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This milestone offers a meaningful opportunity for communities to come together and celebrate the people, progress and pride that shape who we are.

To mark the occasion, the Village will have an America 250 banner available to sign at both the Ice Cream Social and Spirit of Alpha. The banner will be placed in our time capsule. The Village and Crescent Lake Club invites the community to the Lake for Fourth of July fireworks at dusk. An ice cream truck will be on site, so come early. Around town you'll notice new flags displayed on D Street and at the Gazebo to show our community spirit during this special anniversary.

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will return this year at 210 S 2nd Street. For updates and details, follow the "Alpha Farmer's Market" Facebook page or watch for flyers at local businesses.

Lucky Duck Derby

The 6th Annual Lucky Duck Derby will be held at Crescent Lake on Saturday, September 12th at 10am. Ducks will be available for purchase at local businesses later this year. Proceeds support two scholarships for AlWood graduates. For more details, visit the Alpha Community Team Facebook page or look for flyers at local businesses.

Christmas Celebration

The 2026 Christmas Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 5th at the Legion. A Trivia Night fundraiser will be scheduled at a later date to help support the event. For more information, follow "Spirit of Alpha Christmas Celebration" Facebook page or watch for flyers at local businesses.

Spirit of Alpha

Spirit of Alpha will be held Saturday, August 29th from 11am-2pm, with activities on W D Street. The Lighted Parade will begin at 7:45pm at AlWood Elementary School. The parade route will travel South on Yates Street, West on D Street, North on 2nd Street ending on A Street. This year's theme is "America 250".

The Alpha Community Team (ACT) is a volunteer group that plans community events. If you're interested in helping, please contact Heather Deshane at 309-236-5932, or send a message to the and follow the Alpha Community Team Facebook (A.C.T.) page for event details and updates.





Thank You For Reading!

Becky Brown, Mayor

Village Board Trustees:

Tena Anseeuw

John Duyvejonck

Brad Barton

Dennis Shannon

Mike Petrovich

Ron Medley

Heather DeShane, Clerk

Lindsay Brooks, Treasurer

Jeff Kessinger, Superintendent of Public Works

Angie Althaus, Water Billing Clerk