

# News from the Best Little Town in Illinois

Fall - 2020

## Village of Philo

### FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

By: Larry Franks

I want to thank everyone who is wearing masks and trying to slow the pandemic down. I understand how difficult it is to stay home and not be able to live your life the way you are used to. Let's hope this isn't the new normal. Continue to support our local businesses and help get them through this tough time so they are still here when we can fully reopen.

The conversations regarding STOP signs, speeding and side-by-sides/4 wheelers continue. I have tried talking with some of the people when complaints are brought to my attention. The laws/ordinances are in place. It's up to the drivers to be responsible. Please slow down when driving through the village and watch for kids and pets. The speed limits are posted. School is back in session so kids are walking or riding bikes to and from bus stops. The weather is getting cooler and there will be more people out exercising. Please pay attention while driving.

Other topics of conversation with residents is condition of their property. Please keep your yards mowed and free of garbage and debris. The village provides brush pick up twice a month. Recycling Center - the Board has worked to improve the safety and appearance of the recycling center. Please do your part to help keep it neat. Do not leave anything outside of the bins. If they are full, come back another day. The recycling center is for Village and Philo Township residents only. If you know of someone coming from another town, please ask them to stop. The bins are not GARBAGE dumpsters. There are signs for acceptable materials. Although marked as taking only a specific kind of recycling, we have been assured that you can put paper in the plastic bins, as long as it is material that can be recycled.

Watch for slow moving equipment as we get into harvest season. Have a great fall!



### From the Monthly Meeting Minutes:

**May--Meeting held via Zoom** ~ 2020-2021 Fiscal year for the Village begins. Discussion regarding golf carts and side-by-sides/4 wheelers was main topic after an oversight when approving the updated golf cart ordinance. Proceeds from gaming were down, but MFT funds were up due to the fuel tax increase. The Board agreed to prorate the liquor license fees for businesses.

**June--Meeting held via Zoom** ~ Oil and Chip bid awarded. Long-range sidewalk improvement plan discussions began. Golf Cart Ordinance changes were made. Bids were reviewed for a new roof for the R. E. Franks Center and awarded to Bash Pepper. Final payment was made on the Washington Street Improvement Project. Updates on the water damage and repair of the R. E. Franks Center gym floor were presented by Mayor Franks. Hugs & Bugs to resume on June 29.

**July** ~ Catch basin near Jefferson & Garfield to be installed. 2020-2021 Appropriations Ordinance passed. Report given by Trustee Brady regarding the Ash Trees and Ash Bore damage. Repairs to the concession stand at Fireman's Field discussed. Suggestion made for updating signs at the recycling center.

**August** ~ Meeting held August 12. Minutes will be reviewed at September 9 meeting.

Approved minutes can be found on the Village web site. Agenda's for the monthly meetings are posted 48 hours prior to the meeting on the Village web site.

Village Board meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. After several months of electronic meetings we are back in the Eileen Painter Board Room of the R. E. Franks Meeting Center. The agenda is posted on our web page, the post office, main bank and the library. If you have a topic to be discussed, please contact the office 72 hours in advance of the meeting to be added to the agenda. All meetings are open to the public. Masks are required and the number of guest will be limited due to the size of the room.



## Village Wide Garage Sales

The dates for the Village wide garage sales are set for **Friday, September 25 & Saturday, September 26**. These are the advertised dates. You are allowed to host your sale at a date and time convenient for you. We recommend encouraging the wearing of masks and social distancing. There will be printed maps with addresses available at the post office, library, gas stations and in the Announcement on the village web site. If you would like to be listed on the map, please contact Janet at 684-2562 or [janet@villageofphilo.com](mailto:janet@villageofphilo.com). There is a \$5 fee to help offset the cost of publishing/advertising.

## Community Clean-Up Day & Electronics Recycling

The fall Community Clean-Up Day (Dumpster Day) & Electronics Recycling will be held on **Saturday, October 3 from 7:00am - Noon** at the corner of Adams & Washington St. This event is open to Village residents only. We recommend wearing masks and social distancing.

## Philo Exchange Bank -- Shred Day

The Philo Exchange Bank will be hosting Shred Day on Saturday, October 10.

## Trick or Treat Hours Set

Trick or Treat hours in the Village of Philo will be from **6:00 - 8:00pm on Saturday, October 31**. Remember to carry a flashlight and wear reflective clothing. Be cautious when driving.

## Election Day -- November 3

Tuesday, November 3 will be the General Election. You can find a sample ballot and all other election information on the Champaign County Clerk web site. <https://www.champaigncountyclerk.com/>

Also, the Consolidated Election will be April 6, 2021. If you are interested in serving the Village of Philo, please check out the Champaign County Clerk web site or contact Village Clerk - Judy Kirby for more information.

## Remember Our Veterans -- NOVEMBER 11

## Golf Cart Registration



Use of golf carts around the village has increased over the years. The Village Board reviewed the ordinance and made changes adopting the updated Ordinance No. 2020-639 "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE ORDINANCES AUTHORIZING THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS ON THE VILLAGE OF PHILO PUBLIC STREETS". Individuals who intend to drive their golf carts on Village streets must obtain a permit from the Village administrative office after having their carts inspected by an appointed village representative. As slow moving vehicles, maximum speed allowed, golf carts must yield right of way to larger vehicles following. The full ordinance and permit form can be found on the Village web page under Frequently Requested Ordinances.

**ATV's and other off-road vehicles are NOT allowed on village streets or properties.**

### **DRINKING AND DRIVING IS ILLEGAL!!**

The ordinance and complete list of requirements is also available at the Philo Village Office inside the R. E. Franks Meeting Center at 127 West Washington Street. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. You may call 684-2562 or e-mail inquiries to [janet@villageofphilo.com](mailto:janet@villageofphilo.com). Please wear a mask and use social distancing when entering the building.

## BRUSH PICK-UP

The 2020 seasonal brush pick-up will continue through December 1 weather permitting. Pick-ups are done on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. If those dates fall on a weekend or holiday, the pick-up will be the following business day.

Use paper bags for plant material 12 inches or smaller.

Stack limbs that are 12 to 60 inches in length.

Cut items that are longer than 60 inches.

Cut wood limbs that are greater than 6 inches in diameter into 3 foot or less length pieces and separate.

Please keep the brush and limbs off of the road.

If you have questions, please contact Dave Traxler at 684-2674.

## 2020 Census

Please respond to the census takers. Field collection data will end on September 30, 2020.

The Village of Philo had a response rate of 85.2% in 2010. We are currently at 80.4% response rate. If you have not responded, you can do so on-line at [census2020.gov](https://www.census.gov/partners/2020.html).

### ~~ What is a census and why is it important?

It counts our population and households, providing the basis for reapportioning congressional seats, redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.-- <https://www.census.gov/partners/2020.html>



## Philo Kids' Festival

The Committee sends out a huge **THANK YOU** to all the sponsors, volunteers and everyone who participated or attended the Philo Kids' Festival golf cart parade and movie night. While they were extremely saddened that they had to cancel the festival, they worked hard to bring the community some fun and enjoyment. They look forward to bringing back the full festival next year and would like feedback and ideas from the community. You can contact the village office or leave a comment on their Facebook page. All proceeds are used to update the village parks and playground equipment.

## Exercise with Safety in Mind

As the days start getting shorter watch for people out and walking, running or riding bikes. Please consider wearing a safety vest, carrying a light and wearing light colored or high visibility clothing when exercising. Although, Rules of The Road dictate that you should walk facing on-coming traffic, be aware of inclines or hills where drivers may tend to crowd the side of the road to avoid on-coming traffic. It's been reported of several surprised drivers coming over a hill to find a walker or bicycle in the middle of the road or along the edge. Be aware of your surroundings and consider changing sides of the road temporarily if the area you walk in has a hill. Drivers, be alert and share the road.

## Be a Good Neighbor

The Village Board encourages everyone to be a good neighbor and to keep the village clean and safe. Many of the calls we receive are just common courtesy, but from time to time an ordinance is required for guidelines. One of the most common questions is "Do I need a permit to put up a fence"? The answer to that is, "yes" and there is a \$50 fee. We have posted the updated village Zoning and Subdivision ordinances on our web page along with building permit fees. You should be able to search these documents. Please call the office if you have any questions or need further information.

Other ways to be a good neighbor:

- Always pickup after your animals, particularly when they defecate on any property that does not belong to you. This includes, but not limited to public parks and the Franks Center property. Dogs are not allowed in Locust Grove Cemetery.
- By law, dogs must be on a leash when not on the owner's property.
- Keep our property neat and orderly. Do not leave piles of debris for extended periods of time. Also, help keep the village drainage system clear by not allowing debris to flow into drains.
- Be conscientious of noise levels such as early morning mowing or after dark.
- **Be courteous when burning lawn debris. There are many people with breathing issues. Smoke from burning leaves is detrimental to their health. Do not burn wet piles of leaves, sticks and other plants. If you have any questions about the regulations and ordinances in the Village you may call the office for clarification.**
- SLOW DOWN! Speed limits are posted. If you are unsure....go slow!

## Keep the Recycling Area Clean

The recycling area is for Village and Philo Township residents only. It is a recycling area, not a garbage dump. There are multiple garbage services that pick up in town. Do not leave anything outside of the bins. The recycling employees do not pick up anything and it is an extra cost to the village to clean up the area and dispose of items.

**Village Board and Officials**

**Village President**

Larry R. Franks ..... 684-2493.. LRFranks11@yahoo.com

**Village Clerk**

Judy Kirby ..... 684-2118

**Village Treasurer**

Kevin Chalmers.....(217) 441-2927

**Trustees**

- Steve Sappenfield.. 621-3084.. Steve@philosports.com
- Pat Pioletti..... 684-2172.. pw64@comcast.net
- Paul Brady ..... 684-2540.. paul-brady@comcast.net
- Rachael Garrett.... 714-8484.. rachaelgarrett@comcast.net
- Steve Messman ... 493-8762.messmanfarms@comcast.net
- Tom Kelley..... 369-6690...tom.kelley@syngenta.com

**Deputy Village Clerk & R. E. Franks Center Rentals**  
 Janet Decker.. 684-2562.. janet@villageofphilo.com  
 127 W. Washington St., Monday - Friday 8am - 11am

**Village Maintenance & Building Inspector**

David Traxler ..... 684-2674  
105 E. Washington St., Monday-Friday 7am - 4pm

**Philo Planning Commission**

Chris Payne, Co - Chair ..... 684-2226  
Karl Helmink, Co-chair.....karl.helmink@comcast.net

**ESDA Co-Coordinator**

Richard Brand ..... 778-8259  
Chris Lueth.....377-9627

***View meeting agendas & minutes on the Web at [www.villageofphilo.com](http://www.villageofphilo.com)***

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