



Village of Philo

a.k.a. “Center of the Universe”

Spring 2021
March - May

FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

By: Larry Franks

Wear your masks and wash your hands. Use social distancing measures. Common phrases these days that we hope will not become the long-term norm. The Trustees and I have been working to keep the Village safe and fiscally sound over the past year. The numbers all look good for the village. We're very much looking forward to warmer weather and have several projects lined up.

- We are in the process of giving Roosevelt Rd from 130 to Cleveland a major overhaul. I don't have a projected start date, but you can watch our web site for any updates and possible road closures.
- The Trustees want to help the Philo Kids Festival get the playground equipment sooner than later. We have plans to remove the slide at the little diamond as soon as possible and hopefully get new playground equipment in place before summer. We really appreciate the committees hard work in getting this started and hope they continue to provide a fun event for families.
- An open house for the renovated Thelma Melohn Gymnasium is being planned as soon as we can have larger gatherings.
- It is time to sign an Electric Aggregate agreement for residential and small business rates. Bid Day for this is in early March. We will try to get the word out on the outcome of that, but be aware that you might be getting letters in the mail from energy companies.

How about that Christmas parade?! I personally want to thank the committee for putting that together on short notice and really thank all the residents for their support. We hope this can become an annual event for the Village.

I know everyone has strong opinions about the proposed Cannabis Grow Facility south of town. Although it is out of our village jurisdiction we have notified the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals of the actions we have previously taken.

You all have done a great job in supporting our local businesses through this and I hope you all will continue to take the measures needed to keep you, your families and our community safe and healthy.

It has been nice to conduct business in person again. Our Board room is small so if you plan to attend a meeting you might want to let Janet Decker know so we can make sure we have room for everyone and still social distance. Masks are required to attend. You can stay up-to-date with meetings through our web site at www.villageofphilo.com

BRUSH PICK-UP

Brush pick-up will resume on Thursday, April 1, 2021 weather permitting.

**DO NOT PILE BRUSH IN ROAD OR ALLEYWAYS.
KEEP IT ON YOUR PROPERTY AND AWAY FROM
STORM DRAINS.**

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

Community Clean-Up and Recycling

The spring clean-up and recycling day will be held Saturday, May 8 from 7:00am - Noon at the corner of Washington & Adams Street.

IN OTHER VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

From the meeting minutes:

November (in person) - Village looking for grants to help pay for sewer treatment facility. Annual Tax Levy Ordinance 2020-645 was passed. All maintenance equipment is ready for winter weather. Price discussed for sale of Old Village Hall. Christmas parade planning update.

December (in person) – MFT 2019-2020 was completed and closed out. Old Village Hall sale discussion continued and our attorney was asked by the board to include “no residential” in the contract. Recap of Christmas parade. Request to make an annual event. Extra recycling pick-ups for the holiday season set.

January (via Zoom) - Build Illinois MFT payments discussed. Village attorney presented contract for sale of Old Village Hall with language for restriction of residential purposes. Request to block off part of Washington and/or Harrison St. on March 14 for the Fireman’s Corn Beef & Cabbage fundraiser so people can eat outside (weather permitting). Recycling area staying mostly maintained. The chain seems to help remind people not to use when full. Request to move forward with purchase of playground equipment. Parks Committee to meet in February.

February (in person) - Minutes will be approved at the March board meeting to be held Wednesday, March 10, 2021 in the Eileen Painter Room of the R. E. Franks Meeting Center with a special meeting time of 7:00pm.

Meeting minutes are posted on the Village web site www.villageofphilo.com under the *About Philo-Village Board* tab after they are approved at the following monthly meeting. The public is invited to attend.

Recycling

Please help keep the recycling center and surrounding area clean and neat. Please do not leave anything outside of the recycling containers if they are full. This creates a wet, soggy, unsightly mess and added expense to the Village. Please come back later. You can make extra space by breaking down your boxes.

Ball Season Begins

The Philo Ball Park Association is looking forward to getting back in the “swing” of things this summer. Visit our web site for more information. Sign-ups were held in February. www.villageofphilo.com/parks

Sledding!

The snow is flying! Sledding on the hill at the water tower is at your own risk. **Motorized vehicles of any kind are not allowed on the hill or village properties.**

Snow Removal

When there are two or more inches of snow on village streets, residents living on Washington Street in the downtown area are asked to park in the alley between the hours of 12:00am and 6:00am so that the streets of Washington and Harrison can be plowed. Village maintenance also requests that anyone living in a cul-de-sac park in driveways or further off the road. Parking in the circle makes it too tight for the plow trucks to do a decent job.



O’Philo Fest Corned Beef & Cabbage

The Philo Volunteer Firefighters will be holding their annual Corned Beef & Cabbage fundraiser on **Sunday, March 14 from Noon to 4:00pm at the Philo Tavern.** Dine-in and curbside pick-up will be available. Weather permitting, there will be picnic tables available for outdoor seating due to limited capacity indoors. This year they will only be holding a 50/50 raffle. Please come out and support the local volunteers!

Egg My Yard sponsored by Philo 4-H Friends

4-H members and families will be “egging” yards as a community service event in lieu of our traditional Philo Easter Egg Hunt.

- **Saturday, April 3rd**

- Accepting locations in Sidney, Philo & Tolono
- Deadline to sign up is March 27 or until spots are full.
- There is no charge thanks to our generous sponsors.
- Email philo4hfriends@hotmail.com if you have questions.

Sign up: <https://forms.gle/ndsVYhSDRrLpwa1N7>



Consolidated Elections Coming in April

The Consolidated elections will be held on Tuesday, April 6. Philo residents will vote for three Village Trustees and Village President. Larry Franks is the only candidate on the ballot for President. Four residents have filed to be on the ballot for three Trustee positions. Those candidates are: David A. Happ, Thomas Kelley, N. Patrick Pioletti and Steven E. Sappenfield.

**Comments and suggestions regarding
The Philo Newsletter’s format
and content are welcome.**

**Village of Philo Attn: Newsletter
P.O. Box 72 Philo, IL 61864
Phone: 684-2562 E-mail:
janet@villageofphilo.com**



Exercise with Caution

It's great so many people in the community enjoy getting out and walking, running, biking or taking care of their pets. The winter months bring challenges of getting these activities in safely. When outside, wear reflective gear and bright colored clothing. If it is dark, along with the reflective gear, wear or carry a light. Rules of the Road dictate that walkers and runners face oncoming traffic. When biking follow the rules of going with traffic. If you are on a hill, be sure to move to the side of the road and possibly stop until the vehicle has passed. Always assume the driver does not see you. Unfortunately, in this day of distracted driving they probably do not. Drivers, **PUT DOWN THE PHONES!** The R. E. Franks Center is open from 7:00 - 9:00am, Monday - Friday (when Hugs & Bugs is in session) for walking. No pets allowed.



How About That Christmas Parade!!



A group of local women looking to spread a little Christmas cheer during the Covid pandemic organized a

Christmas light parade on Friday, December 4, 2020 at 7:00pm. The parade was very well attended and talk of making it an annual event began immediately after the parade.



R. E. Franks Meeting Center Remodel

The R. E. Franks Center is slowly reopening its doors. After being shut down due to the pandemic and then a water leak in May, the Thelma Melohn Gymnasium has a new floor, fresh paint and new bleachers. After careful review of the usage of the facility it was determined to only replace one set of bleachers. The Village Board is planning an open house when restrictions are loosened. Until then, you can now book your future events. Due to limited number of rentals available contact Janet Decker at 684-2562 or e-mail janet@villageofphilo.com as soon as you have a date in mind. Additional information and a calendar for availability can be found on the village web site www.villageofphilo.com under Franks Center tab.

Electric Aggregation

The Village of Philo is once again offering an opportunity to Philo residents to save money on their electric bills. The current electric aggregation contract expires in May. New bids for electricity will be opened on March 10th. This rate is once again projected to be below the default rate set by Ameren for the same period.

Residents of Philo can “opt out” of the aggregation program. Each residence now served by Ameren or who are already enrolled in the current program will receive a letter from Ameren outlining the choices. If you wish to be included in the aggregation program, no action is necessary; you will automatically be enrolled. If, on the other hand, you do not wish to be included, the letter will outline the steps necessary to opt out of the program.

Representatives will not go door-to-door or call you. Please call the village office if this is happening.



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

Tom Kelley..... 369-6690.. tom.kelley@syngenta.com

Steve Sappenfield.. 621-3084.. Steve@philosports.com

Pat Pioletti..... 493-9069.. 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

Deputy Village Clerk & R. E. Franks Meeting 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 - 4 pm

Philo Planning Commission

Chris Payne, Co - Chair 684-2226

Karl Helmink, Co - Chair.....karl.helmink@comcast.net

ESDA Co-Coordiators

Richard Brand 778-8259

Chris

Lueth.....377-9627

View meeting agendas & minutes on the Web at www.villageofphilo.com

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