

Village of Philo

News from the Best Little Town in Illinois

Winter 2022-2023
December - February

FROM THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

By: Larry Franks

Another year is coming to an end and the Board of Trustees and I would like to wish you all well in the New Year.

This edition is out after the annual Christmas parade and the return of the Christmas tree being placed in the intersection of Washington and Harrison Streets. This was a long-ago tradition that several residents thought would be a fun idea to bring back. Hopefully, all will go smoothly and Philo will have a festive holiday season.

The Hazen Park playground project is getting close to completion and we hope to have a dedication ceremony in the spring. The brick order has been placed. We appreciate all the support and contributions from the community.

The board continues to work on making Philo a safe place and has ordered and installed video surveillance at several locations in town. Coming soon there will be electronic traffic signs to help control the speeding issues.

Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

IN OTHER VILLAGE HAPPENINGS

Summary of notes from the meeting minutes:

August – Request made by the co-chairs of the Planning Commission for a new member. Representative from VIDCom was present to answer questions regarding the video surveillance system. Road work to be completed on Washington & Harrison St. Improvements at Hale Park discussed. Radar speed signs discussed. ESDA needs updated equipment. Boardroom media equipment was installed.

Special Meeting – a Special Meeting was held on August 24 to approve sidewalk bids for Hazen Park.

September – NE Storm drainage project put on hold for the season. Bids will be requested again in January for spring work. Speeding and signage were discussed; President Franks to contact sheriff's office with suggestions from Trustees. Preliminary quotes distributed to Trustees for a new Village maintenance shed. Bids for asphalt reviewed. Request for updated bids to include more area and a special meeting to review said bids. Donor signs for Hazen Park discussed. Recycling bins continue to be a problem. **Special Meeting** – a Special Meeting was held on September 22 to review and approve bids for surfacing of parking areas at Hazen Park.

October – All road and drainage work on hold for the season. All sidewalk work and paving at Hazen Park complete. Tax Levy discussed. Radar speed limit signs presented and approved. Request for R E Franks Center rental rate increase.

November -- Minutes will be approved at the December board meeting to be held Wednesday, December 14, 2022 in the Eileen Painter Room of the R. E. Franks Meeting Center. The meeting will begin at 6:30pm.

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 meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the R. E. Franks Meeting Center located at 127 W. Washington St.



Slow Down

Speeding on village streets has been a topic for quite some time. Unless otherwise posted the speed limit on village streets is 30 mph. Use caution at

intersections, come to a complete stop at stop signs and pay attention to your surroundings. The Village Trustees have called for extra County Sheriff patrols and purchased radar speed limit signs in an effort to address this serious issue and to keep residents safe.

Extra Recycling

Please help keep the recycling center and surrounding area clean and neat. We know there is extra need for recycling around the holidays and have ordered extra recycling pickup and containers thru the middle of January 2022. **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. The recyclers will not clean up. All boxes should be broken down. Do not use this area for garbage.



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 alleys 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.



Sledding!

The snow will be flying soon. Sledding on the hill at the water tower is at your own risk. Motorized vehicles of any kind are not allowed on the hill.

Exercise helps keep the winter blues away!!



Exercise with Caution. It's great that 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 moving 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 Monday – Friday from 7:00am – 9:00am when Hugs & Bugs is in session. No pets allowed.

BRUSH PICK-UP

Brush pick-up will resume on April 1, 2023 weather permitting.

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

CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

Tree pick-up will be on or around January 13, 2023. Weather permitting.

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

About Philo – Business Spotlight

Each quarter we would like to give students the chance to spotlight a local business. Please reach out if you would be interested in sharing your business with the community. Contact admin@villageofphilo.com The next deadline for submission will be February 10, 2023.

Chris's Service Company

By: Elsie Wiesbrook – 7th grade St. Thomas School

Chris's Service Company has been a family owned and operated Philo staple for 40 years. This garbage collection service covers the towns of Urbana, Philo, Tolono, Pesotum, Sadorus, Sidney, Homer, Allerton, Broadlands, Camargo, Newman, Murdock, Sidell and the surrounding areas. When Chris Johnson bought the Urbana-based company in 1982, he had only 500 customers. Now they serve 7,000 customers and call the northwest edge of Philo home.

Chris's son Josh now runs the daily operations of the business. He's worked there for 25 years, but really, he's been helping out since he was 5. Josh's daily morning tasks include inspecting the trucks, and doing safety checks. When the crew comes in, they pick up trash at the houses that have "toters" set out. Tuesday is their biggest day when they pick up 1,000-1,200 toters which takes about 6 hours. After that, they empty the trucks at the landfill in Danville.

Chris's employs 8 workers including Josh, a mechanic, and a secretary. They have 6-7 trucks and can be seen working on holidays, but they typically take the weekends off; although Josh can often be found working on trucks then or whatever else needs to be done. Like many businesses, their company is short staffed at the moment. Because of this, they aren't able to take on new customers currently. They have only 2 drivers, but typically have 4. They are in great need of hiring drivers that have a CDL. (If interested, contact them to apply.) They prefer to work in teams of 3. To help the team, there is a camera with audio on the back of the truck and a monitor in the cab to enhance communication during pick up.

Keeping the trucks working can be a challenge at times. Their trucks have a few years on them but newer trucks with new emissions standards have their own set of problems. Chris's trucks can hold about 14 tons when full! The trash is frequently compacted to make room

for more. It weighs about 2500 pounds per cubic yard. And you thought your trash was heavy!

The garbage needs to be collected no matter the temperature. Josh and Chris recall that in their 40 years, they weren't able to run their routes in only 2 or 3 instances, one being an ice storm, and another where they were snowed in. Josh said that some of his workers use Hothands packets in their pockets. Being highly visible is key so he wears lime green and orange reflective clothing often. He likes having a job where he can work outside and not sit behind a desk. When he's not working, he enjoys camping, boating, and golfing.

When asked what the most unusual thing that he's found in the garbage, he said he's seen all kinds of things, but one that really stands out is the lost wedding ring he found. A customer called and explained that they realized that the ring had accidentally been put in the trash, and asked if he could look for it. Josh recalled that customer's trash being in a large box. Even though he had already taken it to the landfill, he searched for the box and found the lost wedding ring there.

When asked what they won't pick up, he said any extra items outside the toters such as couches. Also, Josh says they don't offer recycling pickup for plastics because it's complicated. There are several rules that must be followed and the supply chain is limited now that China doesn't accept it anymore.

What the future will hold for Chris's? Josh said that he hopes to still be throwing trash but joked that maybe when I'm 18, I could buy the business from him.

The only tip Josh had for customers is to always set out the trash cans the night before. They will take care of the rest. Please give them a call if you are seeking employment and if driving our beautiful countryside is of interest to you.

Their number is 217-684-2465. For more information, check out their website chrisserviceco.com.



Philo Phlashbacks

A little bit of Philo history from the archives.

July 1965

Philo Votes to Install Water Meters

The Philo Village Board has voted to install water meters within the next year. Estimated cost of the project will be approximately \$100 per each of the 260 users of the municipal water system. Financing will be handled by Benjamin Lewis Company in total amount of \$40,000 to \$45,000 water revenue bonds which will pay 4.5 per cent interest. Of this amount \$9,000 will be used to retire currently outstanding bonds. Installation of the water meters is necessitated by high volume water usage, and it is anticipated total use will decrease from 25 to 33 per cent when charges are changed from the current \$2.50 flat monthly fee to the metered charge basis.

October 1973

Philo Main Street Project Completed

Philo's Main Street improvement project has been completed about 6 weeks after it started. Village trustees estimated the cost for 350 feet of blacktop at about \$50,000. Included in the project were new curbs and gutters and a new storm drain. According to a Village Trustee, some Federal Revenue Sharing Funds will be used for the new drainage system, while most of the road work will be paid from the Motor Fuel Tax. Additional funding for the project will be from the General Fund. Only available tax funds were used, according to the Trustee. A new water main was also installed, under a separate contract awarded to Illini Plumbing and Champaign Asphalt was awarded the contract for the Main Street improvement. Yellow marking lines have been painted on the new street, including 43 parking spaces. The project was the first major Main Street renovation since the 1920s.



Washington St. looking east (approx.1963)

Clergy Corner

Zion Lutheran Church – Located at: 101 W. Van Buren St., Philo IL 61864

--Sunday School Christmas program – Dec. 18 during sermon.

--Christmas in on Sunday this year. There will NOT be a Sunday service on Sunday, Dec. 25. A candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held on Saturday, December 24 at 5:00pm

--Sunday, January 1 – New Year's Day service will be at the regular time.

--Looking ahead – an Ash Wednesday is February 22.

Follow our Facebook page for the most up to date information:

<https://www.facebook.com/ZionLutheranPhilo>

St. Thomas Catholic Church and School – Parish office located at 310 E Madison St, PO Box 266, Philo, IL 61864

You can find weekly and Holy Day Mass schedules on our web site at [Saint Thomas Catholic Church | Philo, Illinois \(stthomasphilo.org\)](http://SaintThomasCatholicChurch|Philo,Illinois(stthomasphilo.org)) You can also participate in our live stream Masses on our Facebook page at St. Thomas Catholic Church – Philo.



The Annual Pancake and Sausage Breakfast is BACK! Sunday, January 15, 2023 from 7:00am – 1:00pm in the John Schumacher Gymnasium at St. Thomas School.

Trivia Night will take place on Saturday, February 25, 2023. Doors open at 5:00pm/Triva starts at 6:00pm. Reservation will o pen on Monday, Nov. 28 at 8:00am by going to school.stthomasphilo.org.



Teams of 8 per table. Table cost is \$240. Prizes will be given for best-themed table of the night.

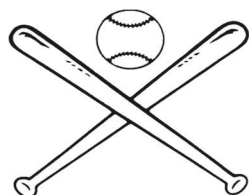
The Giving Place – Tolono serving local families. Clothing give away the first Saturday of the month. Food distribution on Wednesday's 4:00 – 6:00pm.

St. Patrick Parish Food Pantry located in Tolono at 304 E. Vine -- free food available on Monday's 5:00 - 6:30pm and Friday's 9:00 - 10:30am. No residency or income qualifications.



Philo Country Music Show at the R. E. Franks Center

On **Sunday, December 4, 2023 at 3:00pm**, the Philo Country Music show will be hosted by Ed Clem featuring Dyke Corson, lead, steel guitar, and vocals; Dave Ohlsson, drums and vocals with Ed, bass, vocals Roger "Curly" Henderson, piano, vocals and Aubrie Powell, fiddle and vocals. Their live music stage show is held at the RE Franks Meeting Center, 108 W. Madison Street in Philo. Tickets are \$10 per person at the door. Concessions are available. Contact dorgilbrin@aol.com or (217) 390-2700



Watch for Sign-Up Dates

The Philo Ball Park Association is looking forward to getting back in the "swing" of things next summer. Watch for sign-up information late January or early February. Visit our web site for more information. www.villageofphilo.com/parks

R. E. Franks Meeting Center Information

The R. E. Franks Center has updated the rental policies, procedures and rates for residents and non-residents effective January 1, 2023. The web site is currently being updated. All information will soon be available on the village web site at <https://villageofphilo.com/franks-center2/>

Upcoming Village Holiday Schedule

Office & Maintenance **Closed** on the following days:
-Friday, December 24 (1/2 day) - Christmas Eve
-Monday, December 26 – Christmas Observed
-Monday, January 2 – New Year's Day Observed
-Monday, January 16 – MLK Birthday Observed
-Monday, February 20 – Presidents Day Observed

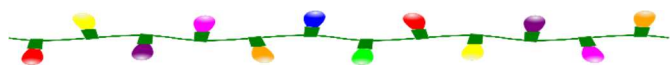
Santa Breakfast Is Back!



The annual Santa Breakfast hosted by the Philo Exchange Bank will be held on **Saturday, December 3 from 9:00am – 11:00am** at the R. E. Franks Center gym, 108 W. Madison St. in Philo. Come enjoy donuts, games, gifts & Santa. Bring a toy donation for Toys for Tots and receive 10 free game tickets. Additional tickets are .25 cents each.

Annual Tree Trimming

Philo Township Library will be hosting their annual Ornament Workshop **Sunday, December 4 from 3:00 – 4:00pm. From 4:00 – 5:00pm** there will be caroling, decorating and lighting the Village tree behind the library. There will be cookies & hot chocolate after the lighting. Please join in the Philo tradition.

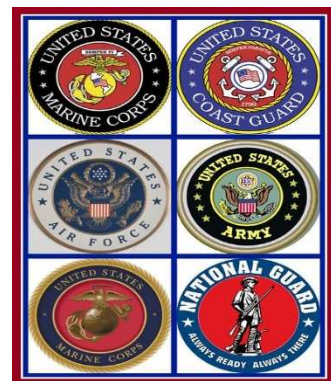


Warm Hearts, Warm Hands

Philo Exchange Bank will be collecting new gloves, hats, and warm socks for kids K-12th grade during the month of December as part of the Warm Hearts, Warm Hands drive. Donations received will be distributed to children in need at local schools.

Holiday Boxes for Active Military

Donations are needed for holiday boxes for those serving in the military. New items are requested to fill at least 20 holiday boxes for soldiers with ties to our area. Suggested items include beef jerky, mints, ChapStick, gum hard candies, individual tissue packages, cards, puzzle books, and white socks. Liquids cannot be sent in the boxes. Monetary donations are needed to help pay the postage to send the boxes. We are still accepting names and addresses of those currently serving. Contact Barb Kleiss at (217) 684-2331 for further information.





**Meet The Trustee:
Pat Pioletti**

Pat moved to Philo in the fall of 2005 and married Julie who had 2 children in the Unity schools at the time and wanted to stay in the Unity 7 district. They chose Philo as the place they wanted to call home.

Pat was appointed to the Village Board in February of 2010 to fill an unexpired term of a trustee who had

moved from town. Pat has been re-elected to serve on the board since that time. Making him the senior Trustee and third most senior member behind Mayor Franks and Clerk Kirby.

“I look with pride upon several projects we’ve been able to accomplish and look forward to tackling significant ones identified for the upcoming year including improved streets, drainage, and hopefully a sewer system. Julie and I have 5 children together, scattered from Michigan and Minnesota to Florida. Also, together we have 7 grandchildren. Julie and I have both retired from our careers and enjoy giving back to the community, staying very busy and leaving very little time for golf!”

Village Board and Officials

Village President

Larry R. Franks . (217) 377-1454
LRFranks11@yahoo.com

Village Clerk

Judy Kirby (217) 684-2118

Village Treasurer

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

Trustees

Tom Kelley.....369-6690.. tom.kelley@syngenta.com
David Happ.....417-3128...Happs65@yahoo.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

Village Deputy Clerk & R. E. Franks Meeting Center Rentals

Janet Decker.. 684-2562.. admin@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-Coordinator

Chris Lueth377-9627
Richard Brand 778-8259
Chris Lueth.....377-9627

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