



October 2011

Village Voice

The Newsletter of the Village of Chatham

Village Board

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Meetings

Planning Commission
Third Thursday of the month
7:00 p.m.
Village Hall
117 East Mulberry

Village Board
Second and Fourth Tuesday
of the month
6:00 p.m.
Village Hall
117 East Mulberry

Mayor's Message - Chatham's Capital Plan

By Tom Gray, Village President and Del McCord, Village Manager

The Village of Chatham is in the process of developing a plan delineating the capital improvements needed to maintain and expand its infrastructure to serve both current and future demands. Each department has identified and estimated the costs of the projects needed to accomplish these goals and revenues that could be used to fund the improvements have been projected over the next several years. With available funding as a constraint, the projects have been prioritized to produce the proposed Capital Plan.

Capital planning is a long standing and ongoing activity in most municipalities including the Village of Chatham. Our past efforts include the development of a long range transportation plan as well as multi-year improvement programs for Village facilities and utilities. Given the current economic climate and shrinking municipal revenues, the Village decided to assemble all these activities into a single combined plan.

A brief overview of the projected revenues available for capital improvements (through April 2016) and the estimated costs of the needed improvements by department is shown below. This summary provides a clear picture of how the capital improvement needs of the Village far outpace the projected available funding.

Capital Projects Fund (General Fund)	\$0.78 million available
• Public Property Capital Improvement Needs	\$2.34 million
• Street Department Capital Improvement Needs	\$6.42 million
Water and Sewer Fund	\$0.75 million available
• Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Needs	\$8.21 million
Electric Fund	\$0.98 million available
• Electric Capital Improvement Needs	\$3.0 million
Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Fund	\$1.47 million available
• TIF District Capital Improvement Needs	\$1.43 million

Earlier this month, the proposed Capital Plan was presented to and discussed with the members of the Chatham Village Board at an Administration Committee meeting. Suggestions for additional projects and adjustments in priorities were provided at that time. The Village staff will continue to work with the members of the Board to ensure the Capital Plan reflects the needs and priorities of the community.



Halloween

The Chatham ghosts and goblins will be
trick-or-treating from 5pm - 8pm on
October 31st



From The Chief

By Chief John R. Holm

With a new school year that has started, I would like to remind our drivers to please be aware of the presence of children walking in or standing near the roadway. The faster you drive, the longer it takes to stop if a child happens to step out in front of you. These types of incidents are almost completely preventable if we just slow down, obey traffic laws, and keep from being distracted (cell phones, radio, eating, etc...) as we drive our vehicles.

Incidents that are completely preventable are when children get struck by a vehicle while loading or unloading a school bus. I have had several complaints already this year from bus drivers and citizens about drivers not stopping for the stop arms on the buses. Our police officers will be on the lookout for this violation and there will be zero tolerance when it comes to the violation of this particular traffic law. One of my worst fears is to have one of our police officers have to notify a parent that their young child has been severely injured or killed by a careless driver. I have included a message from the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety. This message clearly describes the law and consequences if you break this law.

Protect our Children! Know and Obey School Bus Laws

School is in session again. When you see a yellow school bus, be prepared to stop! School bus laws are designed to protect children, not to make motorists late for work, late for an appointment or late for whatever is so important that motorists disregard a stopped, flashing school bus. Consider this, would you rather be late or be responsible for the death of a child?

The majority of children injured or killed in pupil transportation are not injured or killed on the school bus, but outside the bus. Most are struck by motorists who fail to stop for the flashing red lights and extended stop arm. The area around the bus is often referred to as the "DEATH ZONE."

When the red lights at the top of the bus are flashing and the stop arm panel is extended, motorists are required to STOP at any location. This includes, but is not limited to, motorists traveling from either direction on a two-lane roadway; motorists traveling in any lane on a one-way street; and/or motorists traveling through parking lots.

The only exception to this law is as follows:

The driver of a vehicle upon a highway having four or more lanes which permits at least two lanes of traffic to travel in opposite directions need not stop such vehicle upon meeting a school bus which is stopped in the opposing roadway; and need not stop such vehicle when driving upon a controlled access highway when passing a school bus traveling in either direction that is stopped in a loading zone adjacent to the surfaced or improved part of the controlled access highway where pedestrians are not permitted to cross.

Flashing amber lights are activated during the last 100 feet traveled by the school bus before stopping within an urban area (200 feet outside an urban area). The amber flashing signal lamps serve as a pre-warning that the bus is preparing to stop. Flashing red lights and the extended stop arm mean that the bus is stopped to either load or unload school children.

Any person convicted of passing a stopped school bus will lose his/her driving privileges for 3 months and be fined \$150. If a motorist is convicted a second or subsequent time within 5 years of the original conviction, his/her driving privileges will be suspended for one year and he/she will be fined \$500.

If you have any questions regarding school bus regulations, contact the Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic Safety, Commercial Vehicle Safety Section at (217) 785-1181 or TTY (217) 524-4875.

LIHEAP

LOW-INCOME-HEATING-ASSISTANCE-PROGRAM SCHEDULE

September 1, 2011: Senior Citizens and Disabled may apply

November 1, 2011: Open to all other Income Eligible Citizens

Call for an appointment: 535-3120

Your LIHEAP application cannot be processed without the following documents. Please bring them with you:

- Proof of income for the past 30 days. If no income, obtain "one" of the following (1) Denial letter for Social Security or unemployment benefits or Workman's Comp. (or) Medical Card with clients name on it. (or) Proof of application for food stamps, cash/medical.
- Social Security cards for everyone in the home.
- Your most recent heat and electric bills. Bring disconnect notices if you have them.
- If your bills are from a previous address, we will need a copy of your rental lease or mortgage statement.

INCOME GUIDELINES



30 Day Income Guidelines	
Family size= 1	\$1,361
Family size= 2	\$1,839
Family size= 3	\$2,316
Family size= 4	\$2,794

Fall Clean-Up Returns

By Meredith Branham, Public Works Director

After a one-year hiatus, the Village Board of Trustees has voted to return the fall clean-up program to the Village. This year's clean-up will be held on Saturday, October 8th and 15th. However, the collection area has been moved to the Chatham Community Park on South Main. Citizens will be directed to enter the Community Park from Park Street and exit on S. Main St. Collection times will be from



7:00 a.m. to 12 noon each Saturday. To participate, you must be a resident of the Village of Chatham and an I.D. will be required.

Materials NOT accepted include paint, tires, appliances with refrigerant, batteries, chemicals and railroad ties. If other materials are identified by the waste haulers, we will announce them before the clean-up.

Yard Waste Pick Up Begins October 24th

Twice a year, the village provides yard bags and picks up residents' leaves and twigs. Grass clippings will not be picked up. Residents are limited to 3 packs (15 bags) in the Spring and 3 packs in the Fall.



Pickup will begin on October 24th and the last pickup date will be December 2nd. Residents should have their bags out to the curb side by 7:00 a.m. on Monday mornings for pick up during that week.

Starting on October 17th, residents who want to participate in the free Yard Waste Pick Up Program may get paper yard waste bags from the village utility office at 116 East Mulberry Street. No bags will be handed out after November 28th.

When the village's free pick up program is not in effect, yard waste will be collected by the residents' trash haulers, who require yard waste stickers. Yard waste bags and stickers may be purchased at most hardware stores and County Market.

Open House - Fire Department

The Chatham Community Fire Protection District will be hosting their bi-annual open house and public safety event on October 8, 2011 from 10am until 3pm to kick off fire prevention week. Along with the Chatham Fire Department, the following are scheduled to be in attendance and have a display and give-a-ways: Chatham Police Department, Illinois State Police Motorcycle Unit, Air Evac Flight Team plus many others. There will also be an automobile extrication demonstration, fire safety demonstrations, equipment and station tours and a helicopter fly in. We will be providing hot dogs, chips, cookies and soda at no charge to everyone attending our event. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Lt. Joe Bolletta at 483-2121.



Low Income Sewer Assistance Program (LISAP)

Sangamon County/Springfield Metro Sanitary District have started an initiative, "Low Income Sewer Assistance Program (LISAP)", for income-eligible households. Sangamon County Community Resources will administer the program. Beginning June 1, 2011, income-eligible Sangamon County Residents living in the Springfield Metro Sanitary District, may qualify for a one-time sewer rebate of \$49 in 2011. The rebate will be paid directly to the Village of Chatham and applied to the resident's utility bill. Those who qualify may call 535-3120 to schedule an appointment (No walk-in appointments will be taken.)

LED Street Light Program

By Ryan Crawford, Village of Chatham Grant Coordinator

In June of 2010 the Village applied for, and successfully obtained, an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) offered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), and the Springfield - Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission (SSRPC). This grant was aimed at reducing energy consumption by local municipalities consisting of less than 35,000 people.

The Village of Chatham was awarded \$19,120, and purchased (100) 44 Watt LED street lights. These LED (Light Emitting Diode) street lights were manufactured by Lektron Corporation and were purchased through HD Supply of Mattoon, Illinois. The LEDs have replaced (100) 150 Watt HPS (High Pressure Sodium) street lights that have been used for several years. The LED technology has reduced our energy consumption by 40%, and has saved the Village over \$5,000 since they were all placed on line February 22nd. The LED fixtures were installed by Village of Chatham Electrician's Troy Bell, Pat Burwitz, Skip Clayton and Russ Joswiak over a ten week period beginning in December 2010. Ryan Crawford, Village of Chatham Grant Coordinator, has monitored and compared the LED and HPS fixtures since February, noting that if you were to graph the kilo Watt Hour consumption between the two, the LED fixture stays at a constant rate and the HPS steadily goes up. The LEDs are rated for 50,000 hours (22 years) and could last longer due to the fact that the technology is so new. For comparison, the 150 Watt HPS fixtures are good for about 10 to 15 years, but usually don't last that long. Another important factor is that an LED fixture will burn at 100% for much of its life, compared to the HPS fixture, which might burn at 100%, but for a much shorter time span.

The total cost of this project was \$23,900.00. With the EECBG award the total cost to the Village was a mere \$4,780. With the savings the Village has accrued through September, the LED fixtures have practically paid for themselves. Citizens wishing to see the comparison are invited to visit the light pole (with 2 street lights mounted on it) directly in front of the white metal garage located on North State Street. There are two meters mounted directly below the fixtures.



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Standard Mail
Chatham, IL
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Village of Chatham

116 E. Mulberry Street
Chatham, IL 62629
217-483-2451
217-483-3574 (Fax)

We're on the Web
www.chathamil.net

Current Resident
Chatham, IL 62629

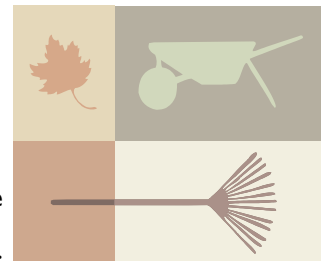
If your organization has an event or story that you'd like included in the *Village Voice*, send an email to lpaice@chathamil.net.

A Letter to the Community

From Donna Hall, Chatham Resident

Are you willing to help our community of Chatham?

Would you all be willing to consider keeping the street sewer drains, at or near your property, free of dead grass clippings and accumulated debris such as plastic bottles, bags, paper cups, bits and pieces of cardboard? After strong winds and rains they have a way of gathering at the sewer drains; this is especially true at building sites, vacant lots, and common areas when strong winds can blow debris from blocks away.



When the sewer drains are clogged up in our village, it is not only unsightly, but prevents rain water from properly draining.

Suggestions:

1. Keep freshly mowed grass clippings from lying in the street and finding their way to the nearest drain where it accumulates and builds up over time.
2. If grass is allowed to lie in the street and find its way to cracks in the street as well as the curb, the grass and weeds shall soon form unwanted and unsightly "curb gardens".
3. If you hire an individual or a lawn service to care for your property, their help and cooperation will be greatly appreciated as well. If they pick up discarded papers before mowing it will keep the debris from blowing back into residential yards.
4. All parts of our village can benefit if we all cooperate.

If we all do our part as well as what is already being done by individuals, businesses/organizations, and our village employees with a limited staff, our small but growing Chatham can become a "Showplace" that reflects that the people of "old" and "new" Chatham are united in our love and care for our community.