



April 2014

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 - By Tom Gray, Village President

Water Supply Contract Settlement With CWLP

The recent settlement between the Village of Chatham and CWLP over the premature termination of the water supply contract concluded a difficult series of negotiations that essentially began almost 4 years ago. The foundation of the problem for the Village was the simple fact that the escape clause in the CWLP contract required a 3-year notification and the construction time frame for the water supply project was projected to be between 18 and 24 months start to finish. A simple solution might appear to have been to advise CWLP that the Village was terminating the water supply contract well in advance of the start of construction. In reality, however, the "start" of construction was a moving target and not a not a known point in time until shortly prior to the actual start of the project.

The crux of the problem was if the contract with CWLP was terminated after the three year notice expired but prior to the start up of the new water plant, the Village would not have a viable source of water. With the contract terminated, CWLP could refuse to provide water and neither the Otter Lake Water Commission nor the Curran Gardner Water District (alone or together) had the capacity to serve the Village long term. And even if forced by a court, CWLP would likely provide water at a very unattractive price. On the other hand, if the contract was terminated before the 3 years notice ran its course, the Village would be subject to early termination penalties. The goal then became to determine to a virtual certainty when the water plant would be on line, and to terminate the contract as close as possible *after* that estimated date. The challenge was how to achieve virtual certainty.

As early as August 2007, the Village Board authorized the termination of the CWLP contract but several technical, financial and legal issues related to the new water supply project made it impossible to schedule any implementation activities and notification of CWLP was tabled. The creation of the South Sangamon Water Commission (SSWC) in 2009 facilitated the resolution of several issues and accelerated the well field, plant and pipeline design activities. The issue of notifying CWLP was again discussed during the summer and fall of 2009. However, several efforts by CWLP to entice Chatham to remain a customer during that time caused the Board to review the CWLP offers and to request "firm" cost estimates for the project before initiating the severance of the water supply contract. Given the sometimes tenuous connections between engineer estimates and contractor bids, the Village Board ultimately determined that contractor bids for the project would be needed.

Plans were prepared, bids were requested and in February 2010, bids were received. Given the economic times, contractors were competing for less and less work and the bids on the well field and water plant were better than the engineers' estimates. Bids on the pipeline were less attractive and the Village and the SSWC agreed to share responsibilities to act as general contractors on the purchase and installation of the pipeline. Initial funding to cover start-up costs for the project was acquired and the contractors

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were given a notice to proceed during the spring of 2010. In March 2010, Chatham and New Berlin entered into wholesale water agreements with the SSWC which provided the Commission the ability to seek permanent long term funding for the project.

The compressed time frame for the bidding activities put the regulatory permitting activities out of sync with the project implementation. The delays in receiving the necessary construction permits threatened the start and ultimately the conclusion of the project. Discussions with IEPA and negotiations with regional environmental groups that could influence the issuance of permits took place during the spring and summer of 2010. Because the Village Board did not want to initiate the termination clause without knowing if the new supply would be available in time, notification of CWLP was again delayed. In July 2010, the Village and the environmental community came to an agreement on the water treatment project and the Village sent a letter to CWLP informing them of the Village's intent to terminate the contract.

Even with the delays, the project was completed in the spring of 2012 and the plant started producing and supplying water to the Village of Chatham in May 2012. At that time the connection to receive water from CWLP was closed and negotiations regarding the early termination penalties began in earnest.

Rounding the numbers, the initial estimates of the contractual damages were \$1.8 million by the City of Springfield and between \$180,000 to \$280,000 by the Village of Chatham. In the end, we agreed on a \$700,000 settlement which included a 99-year lease for the ground storage tank pump house (a significant cost consideration). It is probably safe to say that neither party was "happy" with the settlement, but both were glad to avoid the costs of litigation. In addition, the Village was happy to avoid the cost of moving the pump house.

Get Your News in the *Village Voice*

If your organization has an event or story that you would like included in the *Village Voice*, contact Lynn at 483-2451 Ext. 240 or at lpaice@chathamil.net.

Yard Waste Pick Up Begins April 14th

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.

Starting on April 7th, 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 April 18th.

Pickup will begin on April 14th. All bags must be set out curb side by 7:00 a.m. on Monday, April 14th and 21st to ensure pickup during those two weeks.



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.

Firework Donations

The 4th of July is a time for celebrating our nation's birth with family and friends. The Village of Chatham collects donations from citizens, businesses, and civic organizations to help provide a spectacular fireworks display for the community. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund, may make donations to: Village of Chatham - Fireworks Blast, 116 E. Mulberry, Chatham, IL 62629.



Chatham Ranked #1 Most Affordable City in Illinois!

As a resident of Chatham, it's no secret that our village is growing! In fact, Chatham has been among the fastest-growing communities in Sangamon County for the past two decades. Your loyalty to supporting our community, schools and local businesses is a huge contributing factor. As we continue to grow, we are committed to keeping the focus on family, community and prosperity; a small town feel, with big town amenities!



You may have seen the recent article published in the State Journal Register about Chatham being ranked #1 on a list of the most affordable places to live in Illinois. This is great news for our community! Movoto Real Estate, one of the nation's largest real-estate companies, performed the analysis. The study looked at factors such as food, utility and housing costs in addition to median household income and unemployment rates of 219 communities with a population over 10,000 to determine the Illinois rankings. Studies such as this one show why the Village of Chatham has been one of the fastest growing communities in Sangamon County, and it doesn't show signs of slowing down anytime soon!

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE 468 BUSINESSES IN CHATHAM?

TOP 5 REASONS TO SHOP LOCAL

1. Local Character and Prosperity
2. Community Well-Being
3. Local Decision-Making
4. Keeping Dollars in the Local Economy
5. Jobs and Wages



SHOP SMART. SHOP LOCAL.



Village of Chatham Summer Day Camp

New this year we will be offering a full week of all day activities. During our week campers, will be participating in bus activities, going to parks and much more! Our mornings and afternoons are full of fun activities; please have children dressed comfortably. Parents may drop children off at 7:45am and may pick children up as late as 5:00pm. We ask that a labeled drink and sack lunch be sent daily (refrigerator is available).

Location of camp is at the Chatham Baptist Church. On our outings children will wear a t-shirt provided by the VOC. Please be sure and mark appropriate size on registration form found on the last page of our flyer. Camp size is limited to 30 campers.

225 Dates: July 21-25th

Days: Mon-Fri.

Times: 7:45am-5:00 Ages: 5-12

Cost: \$130.00

Swimming Pools

Did you know that depending on the situation and the surroundings around your home, you may be able to utilize a fire hydrant. **This is not a guaranteed service, just something that does work for some residents.** If there is a fire hydrant on your side of the street and very near your home, you may be able to borrow a water meter and hose from the Village. Keep in mind, that when filling your pool, the hose cannot go across the street, block traffic, or block a neighbor's driveway. The minimum is 2,500 gallons. If your pool will take less than that, it would **not** be cost effective to borrow from the Village. You will be required to pay for the metered water upon return of the water and hose, as we do not bill for this service.



**Green Nissan Presents:
MOVIES IN THE PARK**



May 10th, June 21st & August 16th

Village of Chatham

Chatham Community Park

Thanks to our sponsor and friends at GREEN NISSAN

We are excited to announce our

1st Movies in the Park Family Showing!

Free bag of popcorn and a soda for everyone!

Bring Lawn Chairs/Blankets

Movies begin at dusk

Everyone must park in parking lot located on east side.

Movies Titles will be announced at later date. Rain date will be announced.

Questions please contact Vicky @ 217-685-8383 or vickyh@chathamil.net

**VILLAGE OF
CHATHAM**

**Summer Recreation Programs
for the Whole Family**

685-8383

CHATHAMIL.ORG



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 Chatham, IL 62629
 217-483-2451
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We're on the Web
www.chathamil.net



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 Chatham, IL
 Permit No. 5

Residential Customer
 Chatham, IL 62629

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Chatham American Legion Homecoming

American Legion Post #759
 Chatham, Illinois

June 5th, 6th and 7th
 Thursday and Friday 5:00 PM – Midnight
 Saturday Noon – Midnight
 Chatham Village Square
 Chatham, Illinois

No Admission or parking fees

Chatham American Legion Homecoming is an old fashioned street festival with good food, cold beverages, great bands, carnival rides and fun for the whole family. The 67th Annual festival kicks off on Thursday, June 5th at 5:00 PM with \$1.00 carnival rides for the evening. Food, concessions, live entertainment, games, and rides are featured all three nights of the Homecoming. Thursday night's band will be "The Mud Bugs" and Friday features the "New City Road". Saturday's events include an afternoon parade at 2:00, along with \$1:00 rides until 4:00 PM. "Throwback Junkies" will be providing Saturday evening entertainment.



2014 Highland Games & Celtic Festival

www.central-illinois-standrewsociety.com



The St. Andrew's Society of Central Illinois is pleased to present the 19th Annual Springfield Highland Games & Celtic Festival to be held once again in Chatham, Illinois with the event beginning on Friday, May 16th with Pub In The Park, entertainment provided by the Whiskey Picts. Saturday, May 17th will be the Highland Games & Celtic Festival with various competitions such as Dance, Solo Piping & Drumming, Bands, and Athletic games.

Along with all the various competitions, there will also be entertainment in the Big Top with Exorna and various other artists. Vendors, Food, Children's Activities, Animals, and more will all be featured at this year's games.

Chatham Sweet Corn Festival

www.chathamjaycees.net

Mark your calendars!! The 41st Annual Chatham Jaycees Sweet Corn Festival will be held on July 18th and 19th at the Chatham Community Park.

