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## Mayor's Corner

Like all municipalities, Bethalto continues to work through these tough economic times. We are fortunate to continue to grow residentially and we are starting to show some signs of commercial and retail interest in our community.



The closer Illinois-255 gets to Godfrey, the better chance we have to start attracting retail, commercial, and professional facilities. We continue to work through our Master Plan and are trying to be as prepared as possible for this growth.

With the 2010 census just around the corner, it will be interesting to see what the actual growth numbers

are for Bethalto. We have granted nearly 400 residential building permits since 2000 which puts us on track for an increase in population of approximately 1,000 new residents. Bethalto continues to attract young families with their roots from Bethalto, as well as families seeking a great school system.

Bethalto has also become a nice retirement community with the likes of Parkside Estates and Innsbrooke condominium complexes. The expansion of churches and church developments are also a key to our continued growth as a community.

Besides the Illinois-255 project, Bethalto is looking forward to the completion of the West Corbin Extension heading west toward the Cottage Hills area. This current phase should be completed by the end of

2010 and we continue to seek funding for the final phase of the project.

Central Street improvements, from Prairie Street to Moreland Road, will be put out for bid late this spring with a summer and early fall construction time line.

Phase I of improvements to Roosevelt Street will be put out for bid in late 2010 for a 2011 construction period. Phase I will start at Prairie Street heading east to Meadow Drive.

Phase II will go out for bid in 2011 with construction in 2012 completing the project out to Moreland Road.

With the new year upon us, our commitment is strong to continue to provide the best services to our community and stay within our budgeted means.



## Census 2010: Trying to make sure everyone counts

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. In order to achieve an accurate assessment of the number and location of the people living within the nation's borders, the U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose



representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. 2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and

tribal governments over the next 10 years.

In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education,

senior services and much more.

The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's increasingly diverse population can answer the questionnaire

## Census

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accurately and completely, about 13 million bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese and Russian, as well as language guides in 59 languages, will be available on request.

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. For example, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary field employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped handheld computers to update

maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires.

With one of the shortest questionnaires in history, the 2010 Census asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home. It takes only about 10 minutes for the average household to complete. Questions about how we live as a nation - our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more - are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year throughout the decade and replaces the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire. Responses to the 2010 Census questionnaire are required by law. All responses are used for statistical purposes only, and all are strictly confidential.

### Bethalto Women's Club

Regular Meeting

2nd Tuesday

6:30 p.m. at the Senior Citizens Center

September through May

President: Jan Enos - 377-7651

Vice President: Evelyn Tice - 377-5695

## Save the date!

**12th Annual Villa Rose Quilt Exhibit**  
**March 13**

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**401 South Moreland Road, Bethalto**

**Patchwork Plus will offer quilting  
supplies and demonstrations.**

**Admission is free.**

**To display a quilt or for more information,  
call 377-3239.**

## Senior Citizen's Calendar

**Beginner & Intermediate Country Line Dancing**  
Fridays 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Advanced Country Line Dancing**  
Mondays 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Senior Bus Dispatcher Luncheon**  
Third Tuesday, noon

**Pinochle**  
Wednesdays & Thursdays noon - 3 p.m.

Volunteer drivers and dispatchers are needed for the Bethalto Senior Bus program. To volunteer, contact the Senior Center between 9 a.m. and noon at 377-5859 or call the Village Hall at 377-8051 during regular business hours.

## BETHALTO RESIDENTS

### SPRING CLEAN-UP

**MAY 3 & 4**

The Village of Bethalto's "Fall Cleanup" will be MONDAY, MAY 3RD and TUESDAY, MAY 4TH. Each resident will have ONE day for pick-up. This day will coincide with their first weekly trash pick-up day. Clean-up crews will begin at 6 a.m. Allied Waste will provide curb side pick-up of appliances, furniture, mattress sets, and large carpets (cut into bundles no longer than 4 ft.). Due to state laws and landfill policies, Allied Waste CANNOT accept tires, car parts, batteries and railroad ties. As in the past, Village crews will follow Allied Waste and will pick up other items, with the exception of DIRT, GRAVEL, ROOFING SHINGLES, YARD WASTE, AND TREE STUMPS. Homeowner's construction debris such as drywall, plywood, and other lumber must be stacked and in 4 ft. lengths (NO NAILS); concrete must be broken up. ITEMS SHOULD BE PLACED AT THE CURB THE NIGHT BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED PICKUP DAY TO ENSURE COLLECTION.

# Trivia event to raise support for community benevolence

The Bethalto Area Ministry Alliance is holding a trivia night to raise funds for community benevolence. A total of 22 area churches from Bethalto, Moro, Holiday Shores, Cottage Hills, Forest Homes and Meadowbrook make up the Alliance and work together to support the community through activities and benevolent ministry.

“The benevolent ministry begins with a one-on-one interview, needs assessment and family support to help people resolve the immediate need as well as help them find long-term solutions,” said the Rev. John Blackmore, pastor of Bethalto First Christian Church and current BAMA president.

“The goal of BAMA is to help families become active participants in helping themselves as well as active participant in our communities.”

Through the years, BAMA has assisted hundreds of families through the generous donations of those in area churches, Blackmore said. Referrals to BAMA are made through word-of-

mouth, as well as from social agencies in the community and other churches, he said.

“Every referral goes through one central location, making the best use of funds and helps to avoid duplication of services,” he said. “We assist primarily with housing, utility and fuel assistance, although we are not limited to only these services. Each situation is evaluated on its own merit.”

Blackmore said BAMA works closely with the Bethalto Police Department to screen the Alliance’s gas program in which individuals seeking assistance with fuel must provide proof of valid driver’s license and insurance. This program is primarily for transients who are stranded in our community, Blackmore said.

“The needs are great and the funds are limited,” he said. “We operate solely on private donations.”

Blackmore said churches interested in becoming part of BAMA should call 377-9259 or email to [bethalto.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:bethalto.pastor@gmail.com).

Test your smarts at the

**“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” Trivia Night**  
@ First Baptist Church of Bethalto  
(201 South Moreland Road, Bethalto, IL 62010)  
presented by Bethalto Area Ministerial Alliance (BAMA)  
John Blackmore— BAMA President



**March 12th 2010**  
6:30 pm (doors  
open at 5:30 pm)

**\$80 Per Table**  
Maximum of 8  
People Per  
Table

You may bring your  
own snacks and  
drinks.  
No alcoholic  
beverages allowed.

**For reservations call: 618-377-6472**

Proceeds go to support area benevolence needs.  
Silent Auctions, cash prizes, fun categories and refreshments.

## Trash Talkin’

Allied Waste Services of Edwardsville provides twice-weekly trash collection of regular household waste and recycling once per week. Allied recognizes six holidays: New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Should your pickup day fall on a holiday, your trash will be collected the following day.

All trash should be properly bagged before being placed inside the container. Recycle is collected on the first day of regular service and must be in the recycle bin.

## Trash Tips

- Set trash and recycling out by 6 a.m. Do not mix yard waste with trash.
- Set trash and recycling close.
- Rinse all bottles and cans; remove all caps from milk, detergent and soda bottles, and place in trash.
- Do not set recycle out in plastic grocery bags or newspapers in plastic wrappers.
- Break cardboard boxes down into bundles no larger than 2 feet by 3 feet and stacked no higher than 10 inches and tied with non-plastic or non-metallic twine.
- All trash should be bagged inside trash containers.



See what’s new  
at the  
Village Web site

[www.bethalto.com](http://www.bethalto.com)



# Fish Fry Fridays!

Fundraiser

February 19 - March 26

Every Friday  
11am - 6pm

Seating will be in the  
Community Room  
at Village Hall

213 N. Prairie,  
Bethalto, IL

Sponsored by  
The Bethalto  
Volunteer  
FD