



Bethalto Villager

Winter 2008

Mayor's Corner

As we approach the winter holiday season, we are again blessed to live in a community full of giving people. This year's Charity Events Committee raised over \$100,000 for two wonderful organizations, Autism Speaks and Special Olympics. Each organization will receive checks in excess of \$50,000 for the needs and treatment of their unfortunate illnesses. It makes me very proud as a mayor to live in a community that gives back to those who need it most. The holiday season tends to bring the best out of people and I am excited to know our community works year-round with our Charity Events Committee to bring much needed services to those in need.

There are two very important road projects that will be let out for bid around year's end. The Jinkenson Bridge (metal bridge) on Culp Lane

will be replaced starting after the first of the year. This will close off access to the west side of Wood River Creek for approximately 9 months. It will



create additional traffic issues at Routes 140 and 111 during the closure time. However,

once the project is completed it will be a much-needed improvement to Culp Lane and current safety issues with the existing bridge. Also, the second phase of the West Corbin extension over Illinois 255 will get underway sometime during the first quarter of 2009. This project will have no impact on current traffic but will start the much-needed east-west connector that will alleviate traffic concerns at Routes 140 and 111.

Please mark your calendars for this year's Victorian Christmas Walk which will take place Dec. 14th. This is a great event for our community

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and a way to showcase not only our community but the great people who make it possible.

As always, the Village Board, Staff, Village Clerk, and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season.

Mayor, Village receive River Bend Growth Association Captain's Award

The River Bend Growth Association celebrated its 15th annual Captains of the River Bend Awards ceremony by honoring the Village of Bethalto.

The annual luncheon honors local organizations, municipalities and businesses for making a difference in the community through capital investments or community support.

"The Village of Bethalto and Mayor Steve Bryant were honored by the Growth Association for Community Enhancement efforts," said River Bend Growth Association President Monica Bristow. "Bethalto has seen its share of new investment, but recently the village put special emphasis



on the development of Culp Lane Park."

The park was a former lagoon along Culp Lane that sat vacant and unused for 25 years. The Village Board undertook a park master plan with emphasis on recreation, family parkland and green space, multi-use pathways and nature areas. The village's green space has tripled since 2000.

The Bethalto Rotary Club and other civic organizations helped the village by volunteering hundreds of hours to the park project. It's common to see people walking or jogging along the marked pathway that surrounds a lake, playground and picnic area.

"We believe it is important to shine a spotlight on companies, municipalities and organizations that are making a difference in our community, both through investments and improvements and their dedication and interest in helping the community," Bristow said.

Zion Lutheran Church celebrates 150th anniversary with year of events

To kick off its 150th anniversary celebration, Zion Lutheran Church will host a Mission and Ministry Fair Nov. 16. The fair will be manned between the 8 a.m. and the 9:30 traditional services, and after the 9:30 service until the start of the 11 a.m. contemporary service.

The fair provides an opportunity for members and nonmembers to learn about Zion's ministries in a relaxed, fun-filled atmosphere. The public is welcome to attend. The Mission and Ministry Fair booths will feature sign-ups, giveaways, and prizes.

In 1859, ten years before the Village of Bethalto was incorporated, Lutheran worshipers founded Zion Lutheran Church in Bethalto, at the corner of Moreland Road and Route 140. In 2009, Zion Lutheran Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary, with the theme "Praising, Serving, Sharing Christ for 150 Years."

For the upcoming anniversary celebration, the church is planning one big event per month, as well as a variety of other events geared for members and non-members alike.

As your family prepares to celebrate Christmas, remember the reason for the season is the birth of Jesus. Join us for Advent worship at Zion on Wednesday evenings, at 7 p.m., beginning Dec. 3.

The public is also welcome to join Zion members as

they celebrate these special anniversary events in 2009:

Jan. 18 – Kick-off celebration; Potluck

Feb. 8 – Down Memory Lane; Luncheon; Old-time Music

March 8 – National Lutheran Schools Week—History of Zion Lutheran School

April 19 – Celebration of Zion's Music History

May 17 – Confirmation Reunion

Occupancy permit program begins Jan. 1

The Village of Bethalto will begin its occupancy permit program on January 1, 2009. If your property or rental property changes ownership or occupant after January 1, an occupancy permit will be required before the new owner / occupant occupies the dwelling. This applies to all homes, apartment buildings, townhouses, duplexes and triplexes within the Village.

If you have a new home under construction, the occupancy permit inspection is conducted at the building's final inspection. The inspection focuses on the structural and life safety features of a dwelling.

Application packets are available at the Village Clerks office or the Water Department Office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you have any questions please call the Zoning Department at 377-7697.

Trash Pick-up

1. Place trash in bags before placing in blue toter.
2. Do not mix yard waste with trash.
3. Space toter four feet away from recycle bin or on the other side of driveway.
4. Take toter back to house when empty.



LEAF PICK-UP thru Dec. 1st

Please rake leaves to the curb in long piles no higher than two feet and no wider than four feet. Avoid storm drains.

Leaves only please.



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Bethalto K.C. HALL
Wednesday, December 31, 2008

Featuring Entertainment by
D.J. Rob Hernandez

Doors open 7:30 PM

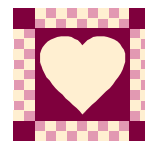
Tickets: \$20.00 per person
(Includes beer, soda and appetizers)
Tickets available at the K.C. Hall 377-3034
Discount of \$2.50 for purchases prior to December 15th



SAVE THE DATE **Villa Rose Quilt Show**

Saturday March 14th
10 am to 3 pm

Please join us for our 11th annual quilt show Saturday, March 14th. As in the past, we will be asking for exhibitors who would be willing to share their special treasured quilts with us for the day. So get busy and finish those beautiful pieces. We will have more information available in January 2009. Please contact us at 377-3239.



Community Thanksgiving Service at Hearts Harvest Fellowship

Hearts Harvest Fellowship will host this year's Community Thanksgiving Service Nov. 25th at 7 p.m.

The service is organized by the Bethalto Area Ministerial Alliance (BAMA) and features both contemporary and traditional worship music and Bible readings. The



Rev. John Tennyson, pastor of Bethalto United Methodist Church, will deliver the sermon at the service designed to allow congregations from Bethalto area churches of all denominations to unite for one night of giving thanks.

Heart's Harvest Fellowship is located at 111 Sheridan St.

Pastors Terry and Karen McKinzie welcome the community to participate in this special service.

Bethalto Spirit presents 19th Annual Victorian Christmas Walk

Bring your family and step back in time. Stroll the candlelit streets, climb aboard a horse-drawn carriage and enjoy wassail and other treats while taking in the sights and sounds of the Victorian Christmas village at the 19th Annual Victorian Christmas Walk Sunday, Dec. 14. Experience the charm of life in a small town when times were simple.

Luminaries will light your pathway through downtown to Father Christmas, strolling musicians and historical displays, providing entertainment for all

ages.

The Bethalto Spirit Community Choir and Orchestra, consisting of nearly 100 members, will open and close the Christmas Walk with a full Christmas concert at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Landmark Worship Center, formerly First Baptist Church, on Prairie Street. Other community groups will sing and play music at various venues throughout the walk.

Volunteers are needed. If you have a desire to dress in costume and work at a venue, or just prefer to work behind the scenes with



planning and set up, call Kathy Wilson at 259-7065.

Limited quantities of Bethalto Spirit Afghans are on sale at Augustine Insurance Agency on Prairie Street. Cost is \$35.

Moro Presbyterian Church Holiday Schedule

Pastor Rev. Dr. Charles Hoekstra
377-6395

Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, November 23rd
Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am
Bethalto Care Center Worship: 2:00 pm

Christmas Service

Sunday, December 21st
Sunday School: 9:15 am
Worship: 10:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service

Sunday, December 24th, 7 pm

Come and share the spirit of "Thanksgiving," and the true meaning of "Christmas" with us. You will find, "It's just like coming home."



Bethalto Rotary Club Annual Citrus Sale

Premium Grade
California Oranges
and Florida Grapefruits
\$30 per case (40 lbs.)

Contact any Rotary Club member

Sale ends November 25

Delivery scheduled for mid-December

The Rotary Club is seeking new members who are committed to "service above self".

Meetings are held at the Senior Center
Wednesday mornings at 6:30.

Mark this date: Annual Rotary Fund Raiser
Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009 at the KC Hall

Police Department completes coat collection

Bethalto Police officers Sgt. Mike Freiner (left) and patrol officer Cole McMichael display some of the coats donated by community members during the eighth annual Kurt Warner "First Things First Foundation" Warners' Warm-Up winter coat drive.



The Village Police Department assists the foundation's campaign by serving as a coat drop-off location. What began as a one-day collection at a St. Louis Rams football game has grown to become a two-week annual campaign. Through its first seven years, the First Things First Foundation has already collected more than 75,000 coats from contributors around the St. Louis area. The Police Department thanks all of those who donated coats to the campaign this year.

For more information on Warners' Warm-Up, visit www.kurtwarner.org or visit www.BethaltoPolice.org.

Fire Department News

The members of the Bethalto Volunteer Fire Department wish to thank everyone for coming out to our annual Homecoming. The Fire Department enjoys providing a fun-filled family event for everyone.

As the seasons change please don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms.



The department congratulates Firefighter Jeremy Hoch on achieving his Illinois Firefighter Certification, Firefighter Hoch has

completed more than 250 hours of schooling and practical exercises to reach this certification!

Members of the Bethalto Fire Department had a very busy Fire Prevention week. The department spent the week visiting schools and welcoming students at the Fire Station.

Remember to practice fire prevention everyday!



The Fire Department is always looking for new members. Interested parties can feel free to stop by the department; training nights are on Monday's, or call at the Fire Station at 377-6421.

Display your collection in the display cases available at the Village Hall. Contact Village Clerk Sue Lowrance at 377-8723 to schedule your display.

13th Annual "Help Kids" Dinner Auction

Saturday, Feb. 14, 2009

Bethalto Knights of Columbus Hall

Sponsored by Bethalto Boys & Girls Club
377-6030



Batter Up! Boys & Girls Club Early Baseball/Softball Registration

First three Saturdays in February, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and regular office hours.

Divisions

T-Ball Clinic (age 4)
T-Ball (ages 5-6)
Midgets (ages 7-8)
Juniors (9-10)
Minors (ages 11-12)
Majors (ages 13-15)

Youth are placed into divisions based on their age as of Sept. 1, 2009.

NO EXCEPTIONS.

Cost is \$40 except for T-Ball Clinic which is \$20. Membership is not required for ages 5 & younger.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB LEAGUES & CLINICS



Basketball Clinic

Registration: Dec. 1-22
Clinic begins Jan. 6

Power Basketball League

Registration: Dec. 1-Jan. 2
4th-5th grade begin week of Jan. 19

Dodgeball League

Registration: Jan. 2-23
2nd-3rd grade begin week of Jan. 26
6th-8th grade begin week of Feb. 2



Bethalto Historical Museum

Open to the public every Saturday 1-4 p.m., or by special appointment please call:
Arvel Fowler 377-9944



Log cabin /coal mine artifacts/horse drawn farm implements.

Hundreds participate in walk for Autism, raise more than \$50,000

The second annual Walk for Autism at Culp Lane Park drew hundreds of participants and raised more than \$50,000 in corporate sponsorships and individual contributions. The walk is one of three fund-raising events organized by the Village Charity Events Board. A golf tournament and dinner auction raised another \$65,000. Proceeds from the events are split between two charitable causes: Autism and Special Olympics.

The event in the park wasn't limited to just walkers. Some wound their way around the park's perimeter in strollers and wheelchairs. Others opted to participate in featured activities like face painting, bounce houses, horse and pony rides, free food and drinks, and a fishing derby. The event held plenty of activity for everyone, especially the volunteers.

"Our committee consists of 20 residents who have volunteered to help organize the events," Bryant said. "But we had another 40 volunteers working the event.

We were really excited about the walk and were

looking forward to it," said Barb Shrader, who chaired the planning committee for the dinner auction and serves on the Autism Walk committee. "This community has really stepped up to the plate and supported us. They've greeted us with open arms. I'm just thrilled to be part of this project."

Bethalto Library brings guest speaker to Senior Center for Lincoln discussion

The Bethalto Public Library is hosting a special event at the Bethalto Senior Center featuring Guy Fraker, who will speak about Abraham Lincoln and the Eighth Judicial Circuit on Jan. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

The library Web site, www.bethaltolibrary.org, contains lists of available new books and DVDs. Login to your Webcat library account to order, or drop by the library with your list of titles for the waiting list.

Events for children:

- Lapsits, ages 0-2, Fridays 9:30-10:00 a.m.
- Storytime: ages 3-5, Thursdays and Fridays 10:30-11:15 a.m. and Thursdays 6:30-7:15 p.m.
- After-school Monarch Award Program, grades K-3, Tuesdays 3:30-4:15 p.m.
- Paws to Read, for children of all ages, 3rd Saturday of each month 10-11 a.m.

Book Club for adults, 1st Tuesday, 7-8:30 p.m.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Allied Waste (garbage pick-up)	656-6883
Ameren IP (gas & electric)	800-755-5000
Animal Control	377-5266
Boys & Girls Club	377-6030
Bethalto Schools Unit 8	377-7200
Bethalto Library	377-8141
Bethalto Spay Clinic	377-2420
Brush pick-up	377-8013
Community Room hall rental	377-8051
Historical Museum—Arvel Fowler	377-9944
Illinois State Police	217-782-6637
Madison County Clerk	692-6290
Madison County Courthouse	692-6200
Madison County Transit	931-7433
Pioneer Newspaper	635-3172
Police non-emergency	377-5266
Senior Citizen's Hall	377-5859
Senior Citizen Hall rental	377-8051
Water Office/Public Works	377-8013
Bethalto Ministerial Alliance	377-6472
Energy Assistance Ft. Russell Township	377-5660
Energy Assistance Wood River Township	259-2366

New Businesses In Town



ILLINOIS INSURANCE COMPANY
JULIE'S DAY CARE
MORNING STAR HEALTH CARE
SCHNUCKS

CORNERSTONE CHURCH 196 Moreland Road **K-3RD GRADE BOYS AND GIRLS** **BASKETBALL LEAGUE**



Practices will be Saturday, January 3rd and January 10th at 9 am. Games will start Saturday, January 17th and continue through Saturday, March 7th. All games will be played at Cornerstone Church Gym on Saturdays 9 am—2 pm.

Cost is \$10.00 (includes instruction & t-shirt)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS DECEMBER 29th.
If you have any questions please call 377-ROCK (7625)

Village of Bethalto
213 N. Prairie Street
Bethalto, IL 62010

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Bethalto, IL 62010
Permit #79



**19th Annual Bethalto Spirit
Victorian Christmas Walk
Sunday, December 14, 2008
4 pm to 7 pm
Concerts 3:00 PM & 7:30 PM at
Landmark Worship Center
(formerly First Baptist Church)**



Steve A. Bryant, Mayor
Sue Lowrance, Village Clerk
Chester Schilling, Fire Chief
Alan Winslow, Police Chief
Joseph Ricci, Public Works Director
Rich Mersinger, Zoning Administrator
Village Trustees: Gerald Bourland, Linda Oldendorph,
Perry Withers, Don Flack, Robert DiPaolo, Jeff Mull
www.bethalto.com