

# Summer 2025 Pawnee News

The official newsletter of the Village of Pawnee, Illinois



Pictures courtesy of Brit Pics Photography, Jessica Basford, Tom Boarman, Tim Glenn, and UCB



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## A Message from Mayor Jeff Clarke

The expression "thank you" serves as a courteous and straightforward way to convey appreciation for acts of kindness or goodwill. However, this sentiment hardly suffices when acknowledging the **Pawnee Prairie Days** Committee members, volunteers, and personnel from the village and fire department for orchestrating yet another fantastic event for our community! The talents of local musicians were prominently displayed during the three-day festival. Vendors offering food and carnival experiences garnered significant support from attendees, including those participating in events such as the car and tractor show, cow bingo, BBQ contest, parade, and beauty pageant. A sincere thank you for once again helping to create unforgettable memories during Pawnee Prairie Days!

As summer begins, please support your local community businesses, check in on your senior neighbors, enjoy the great outdoors, and be safe.



# PAWNEE ESDA LEADERSHIP



Scotty Day



Bill Beaty

## After 13 years, Scotty Day steps down as ESDA Director as Pawnee welcomes Bill Beaty to the position.

The Village of Pawnee announces a leadership transition at Pawnee ESDA, effective June 1, 2025. **Scotty Day** stepped down after dedicating 13 years to improving community safety and well-being. His profound knowledge and experience in planning, organizing, and managing various activities within the emergency services department have been incredibly valuable. His expertise and steadfast dedication to public service highlight his impressive career and enduring impact on emergency management. We extend our gratitude for your contributions to the Pawnee community, Scotty!

A new chapter for ESDA commences with **Bill Beaty** assuming leadership. Bill grew up in Divernon and brings a rich background in fire services with him. He previously held positions as fire chief for both the Battle Creek Fire Department in Michigan and the City of Garden City Fire Department in Kansas, along with serving as fire services coordinator (chief) for Finney County, Kansas; driver-engineer and captain in Springfield, IL; as well as captain and training officer at the Divernon Protection Fire District. Additionally, he has served honorably in the U.S. Air Force Security Forces. ***Please extend a heartfelt thank you to Scotty and a warm welcome to Bill!***

## PAWNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

### GRANT MONEY RECEIVED TO PURCHASE NEW TASERS

The Pawnee Police Department received a \$15,000 grant from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board to purchase new tasers. Chief Harris stated the updated, non-lethal tools will help officers safely de-escalate situations. Training begins this summer.



### GOLF CART REQUIREMENTS: REGISTRATION STICKER / INSURANCE / OPERATED BY A LICENSED DRIVER

Golf carts must be inspected and registered with the Pawnee Police Department for a \$30 annual fee. Once registered, they are considered motor vehicles and must comply with all applicable state and local laws. Golf carts are subject to being towed at the owner's expense.

## IGNITE THE NIGHT: FIREWORKS JULY 3-5!

The use of fireworks is restricted to the evening hours of July 3, 4, and 5 between 8:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. **Residents displaying fireworks outside of the allowable hours will be subject to fines starting at \$250.** This guideline allows residents to enjoy holiday festivities while providing those who might be disturbed by noise or light sufficient time to prepare. As we celebrate this Fourth of July, please remember to be considerate towards your neighbors by adhering to the designated times for using fireworks.

Source: Fireworks Ordinance (2.10.1-10)

Village  
Fireworks Display  
July 3rd at Dusk  
Pawnee Assembly  
Grounds



# COMMUNITY UPDATES



## Major Water Pipe Upgrade

In mid-June, the Village Water Department completed a crucial upgrade at the I-55 site where it sources water from Otter Lake. This coincided with the Otter Lake Water Commission's main line replacement from Auburn to Pawnee. The Village updated aging pipes and valves, enhancing water flow and ensuring consistent pressure. A fuller water tower enables better management of usage during peak demand.



*This project sets us up for better service now and in the future. We're making sure the system can handle the increased flow and meet the needs of our growing community.*

**Andy Lee** Pawnee Water Supervisor



## New Scoreboard Installed

The Pawnee Youth Baseball and Softball Association (PYBSA) has launched its recreational season with significant accomplishments, including the installation of a new scoreboard at North Park. After a year of planning and securing support from key sponsors, they extend their gratitude to all contributors.

For those interested in supporting future initiatives, please don't hesitate to contact PYBSA board members. Follow PYBSA on Facebook for updates.

## Easements and Rights of Way: What Property Owners Should Know

Property owners may encounter legal terms such as easement and right of way, particularly during utility work, road improvements, or land development. Understanding these terms helps explain why work may occur near or on your property.

### EASEMENT

A legal right allowing someone to use a portion of your land for a specific purpose (e.g., utility access, drainage).

### RIGHT OF WAY

A type of easement that allows for travel across land —commonly for roads, sidewalks, or railways.

### KEY DIFFERENCES

#### OWNERSHIP

You still own your land, but others have limited use rights.

#### PURPOSE

- Easements are often used for utilities, shared driveways, or stormwater access.
- Rights of way are used for public travel, like roads or walkways.

#### COMMON USERS

Utility companies, local governments, or neighbors.



SCAN



This program offers a no-cost weekly lunch for Pawnee children ages 18 and under. For more information, scan the QR code or email [pawneepicnic@gmail.com](mailto:pawneepicnic@gmail.com).

# Village Projects and Updates

Personnel are busy mowing, trimming, patching, and sprucing up all areas across the Village.

- The Water Department continues to **replace old mobile water readers with advanced cellular technology**. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, seventy-five water readers have been installed. Once completed, this upgrade allows homeowners to track their water consumption and set alerts for leak notifications. Over the next four years, this initiative will be rolled out in phases, with an annual expense of approximately \$83,000.
- Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, the **Otter Lake Water Commission increased water rates** by 0.43 cents per 1,000 gallons of water to cover the cost of replacing the water main from Auburn to Pawnee.
- The **Rock and Chip Program bid letting** is being prepared to receive bids. The dates for this year will depend on the selected contractor. Most likely, roads will be oiled and resurfaced in August or September.
- **Fire hydrants** throughout the town have been given a new layer of red paint. A big thank you to our summer crew for their excellent work!



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Pawnee, Illinois 62558

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## Village Board & Personnel

Jeff Clarke *Mayor*  
Devona Martin *Village Clerk*  
Brent Wise *Treasurer*  
Troy Grant  
Erika Guess  
Pat Murphy  
David Skinner  
Phil Thompson  
Dale Walters

**Craven & Craven, P.C.**  
*Counselors at Law*  
Donald M. Craven  
Joseph A. Craven

**GAS/WATER DEPARTMENT**  
Andy Lee *Supervisor*  
Brandon Jackson  
Josh McElroy

**SEWER DEPARTMENT**  
Steve Haney *Supervisor*  
Travis Simpson  
Matt Turner

**STREET DEPARTMENT**  
Jeff Schober *Supervisor*  
Tim Vidmar

**UTILITY OFFICE**  
Brent Wise *Office Manager/Treasurer*  
Kim Nichols *Billing Clerk*  
Kelly Haney *Grant Writer/Webmaster*  
Michelle Featherston  
Sonja Skinner

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Barclay Harris *Chief*  
Charles Barber  
Eric Bertoni  
Joshua Ibberson  
Corey Reynolds  
Clyde Ross

## Calendar

**Village Board Meetings**  
July 14 & 28  
August 11 & 25  
September 8 & 22

**Village Office Closed**  
*Independence Day*  
July 4

*Labor Day*  
September 1

*\*Calendar items are subject to change.*

## Contact Us

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PAWNEE NEWS is the official Village of Pawnee newsletter, published quarterly and mailed to more than 1,000 Pawnee postal households and businesses. Please direct comments, suggestions and questions, including advertising to: Brent Wise, Office Manager, vpawnee@comcast.net.