

Fall 2025

# Pawnee News

The official newsletter of the Village of Pawnee, Illinois



## A Message from Mayor Jeff Clarke



Steve Haney - 37 Years

### *Congratulations to Steve Haney, Supervisor, Pawnee Parks & Sewer Department*

Steve's remarkable tenure with the Village of Pawnee is coming to a close as he plans to retire later this year. A lifelong resident, Steve has committed 37 years to improving the quality of life in our community. His strong love for his hometown has been a driving force behind the numerous projects he has overseen over the years. He has consistently worked to ensure that parks are ready and welcoming for families and children, incorporating various ideas to foster a safe and enjoyable environment for all. With his knowledge of Pawnee's sewer systems, he is an invaluable member of the Village Public Works Department. The team greatly appreciates Steve's leadership as he transitions responsibilities to Travis and Matt for upcoming initiatives. Thanks to Steve's contributions, we can be confident that Pawnee is set for future development. As he heads off to one of his favorite hunting spots, we express our heartfelt gratitude for everything you've accomplished for the Village of Pawnee. **Happy Retirement and Thank You!**



## TRAVIS SIMPSON MATT TURNER



Travis Simpson - 16 Years



Matt Turner - 1 Year

### Where did you grow up?

Travis: Pawnee

Matt: Loami

### If you could only listen to one artist/band for the rest of your life, who would it be?

Travis: Luke Combs

Matt: Colby Acuff

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

Travis: The people I work with and for (public & Village Board)

Matt: Mowing

### If you could learn any skill instantly, what would it be?

Travis: How to be the perfect carpenter and electrician.

Matt: Working on sewer pumps

### What's one project or achievement you're particularly proud of?

Travis: Maintaining the park, square, and cop shop; raising three boys in my personal life.

Matt: Park turf

## REPORTING NATURAL GAS SMELLS AND EMERGENCIES

**A gas leak can be detected through smell, sight, or sound. Here are a few tips on how to detect an emergency.**

**SMELL:** A distinctive sulfur-like or rotten-egg odor is added to natural gas, so you'll recognize it. This odor may fade or be difficult to distinguish, so do not rely on your sense of smell alone to detect a natural gas leak.

**SIGHT:** You might notice soil being lifted into the air from an opening in the ground; persistent bubbling in a body of water; wilting or lifeless plants (in an otherwise wet region) situated over or close to a pipeline; a compromised link to a gas device; or a visible pipeline following an earthquake, fire, flood, or another catastrophe.

**SOUND:** You might notice a hissing, whistling, or roaring noise when natural gas leaks from a pipe.

If you think there might be a natural gas leak, alert those around you and swiftly exit the vicinity. Once you're in a secure spot at least 300 feet away from the suspected leak, contact the Village Gas Department anytime, day or night.

**WATER, GAS, AND SEWER EMERGENCIES, CALL**



**217 625-2941**



# PAWNEE VILLAGE SPOTLIGHT

We appreciate the businesses that contribute to our Village. As space allows, this newsletter will showcase different Pawnee establishments and businesses. In this edition, we spotlight the restaurants popular with both locals and visitors! A diverse array of tasty choices awaits you, from pizza and horseshoes to sandwiches, ice cream, and beyond. Your patronage is greatly valued by both them and us.

## **CASEY'S GENERAL STORE**

☎ 217-625-8242

📍 712 Carroll Street

## **HIGGY'S BAR & GRILL**

☎ 217-646-8188

📍 613 Seventh Street

## **KREKELS**

☎ 217-625-4952

📍 310 Carroll Street

## **LOCALS RESTAURANT & BAR**

☎ 217-646-8013

📍 609 Douglas Street

## **THE SHED**

☎ 217-646-8136

📍 210 Carroll Street



## Daylight Saving Time **NOVEMBER 2**

Remember to adjust your clocks back and replace the batteries in your smoke detectors! Daylight Saving Time first emerged during World War I, with Germany pioneering it in 1915, followed by Britain in 1916, and the United States in 1918.

## **Yard Waste Hours**

**Burn Pile** (North 4<sup>th</sup> St.) Daily from 7:30 a.m. until dusk

**Yard Waste Burning** Daylight hours on **EVEN** numbered days



## *Christmas at the Firehouse* **NOVEMBER 23**

## PAWNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



### **DRIVERS SLOW DOWN**

The harvest season brings about heightened activity on our roads. Please make sure to reduce your speed and share the road with farmers and their equipment.

### **GOLF CARTS: SUNRISE TO SUNSET**

To ensure the safety of both golf cart users and pedestrians, golf carts are permitted to be driven only during daylight hours, from sunrise to sunset.





# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## North Park Playground Gets an Upgrade!

The North Park is a point of pride for the residents of Pawnee. This lovely park remains a delightful recreational spot where families and friends can gather and have fun. We continually explore ways to enhance the park, ensuring it remains accessible to all.

This summer, we upgraded the playground area by removing old mulch and installing a new turf surface. This new turf necessitates minimal upkeep and offers a safer, more enjoyable environment for children. During turf preparations, the asphalt was found to be deteriorating. A new walkway was installed around the playground. We invite everyone to visit the park and experience these exciting improvements firsthand!



**Total Investment = \$138,557.50**  
(turf \$113,557.50 + concrete \$25,000)  
J&L Construction / Langheim Concrete



*Special thanks to the Sewer and Parks department for their efforts on this initiative.*

## Municipal Aggregation Program vs. Ameren

### Pawnee Residents (Ameren Customers)

In 2012, Village residents voted in favor of a referendum that enabled the municipality to negotiate electricity supply rates for those who choose not to opt out. To obtain more favorable pricing, Pawnee became part of the Central Illinois Municipal Aggregation (CIMA), which consists of 22 communities collaborating to achieve competitive bulk electricity rates.

This past summer, the Village approved Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. to serve as the Electric Aggregation program supplier following a competitive bid process. The municipal fixed electric supply rate became effective in June, protecting residents for the next 12 months. Residents received a letter detailing the program. No action is needed to remain in the electric aggregation program.

### Constellation Program Rates

Rate effective June 2025	\$0.10899 per kWh
Previous rate set in 2022	\$0.07895 per kWh

### Ameren Rates

Rate effective June 2025	\$0.1218 per kWh
Previous rate set in 2022	\$0.08277/kWh

### Electric Aggregation Program Supplier

Rate is for electric supply only.  
Ameren delivery and other charges still apply.

**Constellation  
NewEnergy, Inc.**

**Auto  
Enrolled**

**Ameren  
Monthly  
Electric Bill**

**12  
Month Term**



### What you should know if you opt out of the Electric Aggregation Program

- Residents can opt out now through May 2026. It may take one-two billing cycles to be removed.
- Residents will receive Ameren's Supply Rate.
- When a rate and term are announced, residents must opt out each time.
- Residents must wait 12 months to rejoin the municipal electric rate.

# Village Project Update: Open Hydrants

Crews are operating fire hydrants around town. This process, known as hydrant flushing, is crucial for maintaining Pawnee’s water system. Flushing keeps the water supply clean and safe. With time, natural minerals and sediment accumulate inside the water mains. By releasing the water at high speed, the materials are cleared from the pipes. Flushing also ensures that hydrants are in good working order for fire protection.

### Flushing Introduces Fresh Water Into Areas

This balances chlorine levels, reduces the likelihood of bacterial growth, and maintains the overall health of the system.

### Flushing Is Not Random: Specifically Planned for Impact

This allows the efficient distribution of fresh water throughout the entire system, targeting the sections that require it the most.



## TRUNK OR TREAT ON THE SQUARE

Sunday, October 19 / 1:00 - 3:00 pm  
All vehicles are welcome to participate.

## TRICK OR TREAT HOURS

Thursday-Friday, October 30-31 / 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
A reminder to visit homes with porch lights on.



### Water Quality Monitored

Daily samples confirm chlorine and other levels remain within state guidelines. In addition, monthly water samples are independently tested by the EPA.

### Temporary Changes in Water

Discolored water or lower water pressure is normal and should clear up within a short time. Running cold tap water for a few minutes usually helps.



617 7th Street  
Pawnee, Illinois 62558

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Springfield, IL  
Permit #11



Scan the QR code  
for the latest news -  
<https://pawneeil.net>

## 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 *Village Administrator*  
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

*subject to change*

**VILLAGE BOARD MEETINGS**  
October 13 & 27  
November 10 & 24  
December 8 & 22

**VILLAGE OFFICE CLOSED**  
**Veterans Day**  
November 11

**Thanksgiving**  
November 27-28

**Christmas**  
December 24-25

**Contact Us**   ■ 617 7th Street, Pawnee, Illinois 62558   ■ 217 625-2941   ■ [vpawnee@comcast.net](mailto:vpawnee@comcast.net)   ■ <https://pawneeil.net/>

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](mailto:vpawnee@comcast.net).