

MAYOR REPORT - Alan Winslow, Village of Bethalto

March 2019

Police

This past year saw the reestablishment of the School Resource Officer position. In an agreement between the Bethalto Community Unit School District and the Village of Bethalto, we once again have a police officer assigned to our schools on a full time basis. The SRO is an integral part of the safety at our schools.

FIRE

Historically, the Bethalto Volunteer Fire Department has been an all-volunteer department. For 5 years the Department has run over 1000 calls per year, creating a challenge for the Volunteers to keep up with. In order to ensure timely response for emergencies, we have added paid part time Firefighter positions. These positions have been filled by trained professional firefighters, and in combination with our volunteers and paid on call Firefighters, provide residents and visitors with Fire and EMS response 24/7/365.

ROADS

The first phase of the Moro Rd. paving project was completed in 2018. This year will see the completion of the project from Corbin St. to Moreland Rd. 2019 is also the year that we will begin transitioning from oil & chip of roads to creating paved road surfaces. The proposed areas for paving or micro-paving for 2019 will be announced later this spring. If matching grant funds are awarded, Plegge Blvd will also see a new surface.

Sanitary Sewers

Great headway has been made with the sanitary sewer system. In 2018 we inspected and repaired as necessary several thousand feet of sewer mains. Automatic Generators have been installed on all Lift Stations, and the Lift Stations are now monitored by a SCADA system that provides remote access and 24/7 notifications of all functions of the pumps.

Stormwater Improvements

All necessary property acquisitions and easements have been secured that will allow us to begin improvements in the water channel beginning at St. Louis Regional Airport and ending at Plegge Blvd. We expect this project to start later this spring and hope to have it completed by next spring.

Parks

The first year of the Splash Pad was a resounding success. Attendance throughout the summer was very good, and evening rentals proved to be very popular.

Construction of Sports Complex II has been completed and field reservations are now accessible on the Village's website.

We are expecting to accomplish more work on the multi-use trail in 2019-20. In the coming fiscal year the trail will extend from the arboretum south on Moreland Rd. to a point south of IL Rt. 140. Additionally we are expecting approval of grant funds that will allow us to also build westward from the arboretum to Prairie St. this year.

Anniversary Events

The Village will celebrate its 150th Birthday this year. We will be hosting a huge "vintage themed" birthday party in Central Park on June 29. Planned activities include an ice cream social, BBQ cook off, live music, car show, contests, and plenty of games.

This year also marks the 100th Anniversary of the Homecoming. The Homecoming was first held to welcome home Bethalto's soldiers from WWI. In honor of our veterans this year, running concurrent with the Homecoming celebration will be a number of Military recognitions including a travelling Vietnam Wall, a rucksack march, and a static display of numerous pieces of military vehicles.