

# LITCHFIELD MEMO



City of Litchfield

October 2021

Volume 18 Issue 3

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I'm sure that all of you are tired of this attention to the covid virus. With colder weather coming, be aware that this continues to be a threat to our way of life and ability to do business as usual. Let's hope that we can all get back to work with no other mandates from the governor.

In the past few weeks, we have had an electronics recycling drive and a fall clean-up of unwanted items. Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup> the City will offer brush pick-up at your curb. We hope that you have taken advantage of these services and that your property is rid of discarded items and debris. The City continues the effort to clean up neighborhoods by assisting you in ridding yourself of items no longer needed. We have obtained structures in need of demolition and currently have nine unsafe structures to be taken down, pending court approval. This has been done through grant funds and tax dollars have not been used. These lots will then be offered for sale by bid for new development.

We have now leased another lot in the new Eagle Ridge Subdivision on Lake Yaeger. Construction will begin soon on a beautiful lakeside property. The City will continue to improve the lake to prevent siltation and erosion. The second round of the federal 319 grant will allow for further measures that will preserve our lake for many more years. The lake continues to be a priority to insure an abundant water supply and recreational uses. Recreation has more than doubled this past year and has brought needed revenue to the lake operations.

The city of Mt. Olive will soon be drinking our water as they have run lines to Litchfield in order to abandon their plant which is the second oldest in the state. **This was done at no expense to the City of Litchfield.** Mt Olive recognizes that our quality and price will be affordable for their citizens. This will also provide additional income to Litchfield's water fund.

As I have stated in the past, the City has not levied for a property tax increase in more than nine years. We are still committed to holding the line on spending. City general funds have been used to supplement our ambulance service resulting in a deficit of approximately \$360,000.00. The tax levy for ambulance service was implemented in the late 1980's; that levy amount has not changed since that time. We are an aging community and Medicare/Medicaid does not re-imburse the full costs incurred by the City. This shortfall is supported by local City general funds, yet we serve a larger area than just our City with a full-time paramedic staff. The ambulance board has voted to allow for an increase in ambulance tax throughout the **entire district** to spread the cost over a wider area. The additional costs should not be borne by the taxpayers of Litchfield only. Without the increase, the current services cannot be sustained.

Be safe and stay healthy. Local businesses need you as customers as well as employees. There are currently more than 250 open jobs in our community in service and industrial settings. If you are unemployed, take this opportunity to find your ideal position.

We hope you have a happy Thanksgiving, a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

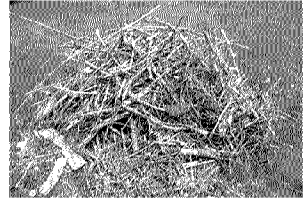
Sincerely,  
*Steve Dougherty*  
Mayor

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## COURTESY – FALL BRUSH PICK-UP

**FALL BRUSH PICK-UP**, a service to our citizens, will be offered by the City the week of November 1<sup>st</sup> if weather permits. Pick-up will begin in Ward 1 on Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> and progress through each of the four wards accordingly. **The Staff will make a single pass on each street. ONCE THEY PASS, THE STAFF WILL NOT COME BACK.** Please have your brush out **at the boulevard by 7:00 AM**, Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. **BRUSH MAY NOT BE PLACED AT THE BOULEVARD BEFORE October 25<sup>th</sup> FOR PICK-UP** as it will be subject to a code violation and a citation. Violators may be cited. Yard waste, big logs, whole trees, limbs, or any trees/limbs cut down by a contractor will not be picked up. Residents may also drop off their brush at the City burn area; it is open 24/7. *For questions or clarifications on Brush Pick-up, please call 217-324-5253.*



The City of Litchfield will offer leaf pick-up service in all four wards along with lake residents later in the Fall. Notice will be given by press release in the newspapers, WSMI and on the City website.

## CITY OF LITCHFIELD UNVEILS NEW WEBSITE



The City is excited to announce the launch of its new website at [www.cityoflitchfieldil.com](http://www.cityoflitchfieldil.com). The new site is ADA compliant, user friendly, and features fillable forms. Users can create a login and subscribe to an unlimited number of notifications lists through the Notify Me feature. Residents are encouraged to look at the new website and explore all that it has to offer. The updated design is informative and easy to navigate; it is updated regularly with useful information. If you are looking for something you cannot find, please reach out to us by calling 217-324-5253.

## ANNUAL LAKE LOU YAEGER DRAWDOWN SCHEDULED

The annual winter drawdown at Lake Lou Yaeger is anticipated to begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>. The City instituted the drawdown following the installation of the new gate system several years ago, which lowers the level of the lake at a slower rate. The drawdown allows the City to make needed improvements to structures, protects the shoreline, and protects structures from ice damage. The Lake Department expects Lake Lou Yaeger to be drawn down approximately 4 to 6 feet below the normal full-pool levels. While 6-feet below full-pool is the intended goal, this level could be affected by excessive precipitation. If you would like more information about this topic, please contact the Litchfield Lake Department at (217) 324-5832. It is anticipated the lake will be allowed to re-fill in mid-February.

## ORDINANCE CHANGES FOR BUILDING & ZONING

There have recently been some updates for Building and Zoning that are being enforced; some are listed below. Please call 217-324-8140 with questions.

- Trash containers are to be placed out of public view except on the day of pickup.
- Only one trailer of any type is allowed on a property, located on a driveway.
- Trailer parking on a boulevard is prohibited.
- The use of camping trailers as living quarters is prohibited except in a camping trailer park.
- Freight cars and box trailers to be used as storage or a dwelling is prohibited in residential districts.
- The City's fence ordinance has been updated as well. Check with the Building & Zoning office for the changes and a permit prior to material purchase and installation.
- All vacant, as well as properties under foreclosure are to be registered with the City.

**Coliform Monitoring Violation Template**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

**Monitoring Requirements Not Met for City of Litchfield**

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During 04/15/21 -04/30/21 we did not complete all monitoring or testing due to a lab error for total coliform and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

**What should I do?**

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for total coliform and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

<b>Contaminant</b>	<b>Required sampling frequency</b>	<b>Number of samples taken</b>	<b>When all samples should have been taken</b>	<b>When samples were or will be taken</b>
Total Coliform	8 monthly	4 in April 2021	April 2021	8 every month
Chloramine	8 monthly	4 in April 2021	April 2021	8 every month

**What happened? What is being done?**

Samples were collected on April 21, 2021 and hand delivered to the same lab the city has used since the 1980's. For some unknown reason the results were never entered into the data base. As a result, the IEPA claims the samples never existed and therefore we are required to publish this notice. Since this incident the sample collector always obtains a copy of the lab sheet once the samples have been logged in.

For more information, please contact the treatment plant at 217/324-2250.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Litchfield      Water System ID# 1350400      Date distributed October 2021.

**LITCHFIELD TOURISM NEEDS COMMUNITY EVENTS**

The Tourism Office is offering groups, organizations, and businesses some free advertising opportunities. The interactive event calendar on the tourism website allows event planners and organizations the ability to post their own public events to the event calendar. To post an event to the event calendar go to [VisitLitchfield.com/events/](http://VisitLitchfield.com/events/) and select "Submit an Event". All areas of the form must be completed, and a photograph must be uploaded with the event prior to approval. This event calendar is a great way to check and see what is up and coming in Litchfield. **The City is still accepting resumes for the Tourism Coordinator position. They may be mailed or delivered to City Hall or emailed to [cityadmin@cityoflitchfieldil.com](mailto:cityadmin@cityoflitchfieldil.com).**

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Litchfield, IL 62056  
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Postal Patron  
Litchfield, Illinois  
62056

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## TRICK OR TREATING HOURS SET FOR LITCHFIELD

The Halloween Parade will begin at 4:00 pm on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>; line-up will start at 3:00 with judging beginning at 3:30 pm. The hours for Trick or Treating are as follows: Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at the conclusion of the parade until 9:00 pm and Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Both nights will be for all ages.



Earlier in the day, the *Fall Festival will begin at 10:00 am*. Many downtown businesses will be open; a variety of refreshments will be available along with activities. Make plans to come out and enjoy the fun.

## CITY HALL HOLIDAY HOURS

Litchfield City Hall offices will be closed the following holidays during November, December, and January.

Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup> & Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>

Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> & Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup>

Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving

Christmas

New Year's Day

## MURAL IN DOWNTOWN LITCHFIELD



Hopefully, you have noticed the new mural on the side of the building at the corner of Route 16 and State Street. It is so realistic, you think it is photographs, but it is not. This spray-painted postcard street art is among a series of national murals by the Greetings Tour. Mural artist Victor Ving and photographer Lisa Beggs are a couple on a cross-country road trip in their RV creating interactive murals that will become future landmarks. The 'Greetings Tour' seeks to create public art that will capture the pride of residents for their hometowns and spark the interest of visitors and tourists. Check out the Greetings Tour website, [www.greetingstour.com](http://www.greetingstour.com) for more information on the Litchfield Greeting's Tour Mural. This project was made possible by the partnerships of the Litchfield Wal-Mart, CNB Bank & Trust, Bank & Trust Company, Litchfield National Bank, First National Bank of Litchfield, True Value Rental & Turf, Cass Cooper, Midwest After Market, J & C Eats, and the Litchfield Tourism Office.

A mural will soon be added to Ryder Street. It will be a continuous landscape design separated by State Street. This project will also utilize donations and should be completed this fall or spring of 2022.