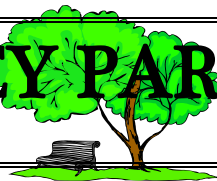

THE CLOKEY PARK NEIGHBOR

Vol. 3 Issue 5

December 2012 – March 2013



Jay Scott, State's Attorney to Speak April 22

Meeting at 7 pm at Prairie Avenue Christian Church

Macon County's own State's Attorney will speak at our April 22 meeting.

The State's attorney serves as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer for Macon County, and is the Chief Legal Adviser for the county. The office is an agency of the Executive Branch of government. In addition to the elected State's Attorney, the office is currently comprised of 18 Assistant State's Attorneys, 3 investigators, and 31 full and part-time support staff.

Among the duties of the State's attorney include:

- Commence and prosecute all felony and misdemeanor criminal actions.
- Prosecute all traffic violations to the Illinois Vehicle Code
- Provide legal advice to law enforcement agencies operating in Macon County in criminal matters and investigations.
- Provide legal advice to the Grand Jury and to commence and prosecute all investigations before the Grand Jury.
- Commence and prosecute all actions pursuant to the Juvenile Court Act, including abuse, neglect, dependency, and delinquency proceedings.
- Proceed on behalf of both private persons and the Illinois Department of Public Aid to assure the payment of child support of minor children in Macon County.
- Commence and prosecute all actions pursuant to Illinois law providing for the involuntary commitment of mentally ill persons to the Illinois Department of Mental Health.
- Provide legal advice to the Macon County Board and county office holders.

Newsletter Changes to Quarterly Format

Effort to reduce group expenses to distribute newsletter to interested persons/groups.

The Clokey Park *Neighbor* will be going quarterly in 2013.

This year you will be receiving your newsletter in March, June, September & December in 2013. Each issue will cover upcoming events of your neighborhood organization, current activities impacting the neighborhood, and timely information from our neighborhood partners about their activities and events.

The *Neighbor* is coordinated, edited, and distributed by volunteers. It takes much time to coordinate, edit, and distribute a newsletter on a monthly basis. Switching to a quarterly format will be easier for volunteers to get the newsletter printed and distributed in a timely manner.

While a subscription charge has not been introduced, nor has the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association accepted advertising to help with the costs of publishing and mailing the newsletter, any contributions to our costs would be greatly appreciated.

The Clokey Park Neighbor is the quarterly newsletter of the Clokey Park Neighborhood Association.

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association's boundaries are Jasper Street on the west, East Eldorado Street on the north, 22nd Street on the east, and East Wood Street on the south. Membership is open to all residents and businesses of the neighborhood, as well as those who support efforts within the neighborhood.

Suggestions, Comments, may be sent to The Clokey Park Neighbor c/o Jason A. Butterick 1953 E Prairie St, Decatur, IL 62521

No Children's Easter Egg Hunt This Year

Preliminary plans for a larger youth event being developed.

The 6th annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt will not happen this year.

Regular volunteers, upon discussion of the early Easter date, have decided the time is too early, the weather too unpredictable in March for a satisfactory event to be done.

The Egg Hunt is usually held on the Saturday morning of Easter Weekend, which this year would be March 30, in Clokey Park

Limited volunteers were available to even coordinate the event, and fewer volunteers were planning to be able to attend the event on its preliminary date also lead to the decision to not hold the event.

There is some discussion of hosting a larger play-day in the park later in the spring and prior to school ending.

Volunteers interested in helping to coordinate this later event are encourage to contact Jason Butterick, Clokey Park Neighborhood Association President at 413-7904.

Council Votes In Favor of Water System Improvements

The Decatur City Council on April 1 approved a plan that is expected to solve the city's long-term water supply needs.

Council members voted 7-0 in favor of a wide-ranging water capital investment plan to provide critically important new water supply in the event of an emergency and fund maintenance to the city's aging water infrastructure. The program is expected to provide the almost 8 million gallons of additional water per day need during dry and/or drought conditions and better maintain the systems that produce and transport water to local customers.

As part of the program, water rate increases of 35%, 30% and 25% with annual cost of living increases of 2.5% were approved to fund the work. As part of the plan the city will, among other things:

- Identify and construct new water sources, including shallow collector and vertical wells.
- Continue dredging of Lake Decatur and negotiations for purchase of Lake Tokorozawa.
- Fund DeWitt County Wellfield improvements and annual distribution system leak detection and repair.

- Perform critical annual maintenance on current water system, parts of which are approaching the end of their useful life.

Residents will also begin receiving monthly bills as part of system administration changes, a move made in part to help residents adjust to the rate increase. In clarifying the change, City Manager Ryan McCrady explained that each of the new bills would be for one month of service, not three months as is currently the case, but at the new rate.

Decatur residents and businesses use water at the same level as a community of about 250,000 residents, underscoring the need for the securing of a stabilized, sustainable water supply. In addition to residential use, local industry employs more than 11,000 people - jobs critical to the livelihood of local residents - many of which rely on large volumes of water to operate.

The City Council also began discussing the city's proposed 2013 budget. The budget calls for a \$500,000 to the Capital Fund and \$350,000 in spending for the demolition of unsafe structures.

A number of major capital projects are expected to either begin or be completed this year including drainage projects in the Nelson Park neighborhood and the northeast drainage ditch and the reconstruction of Main and Franklin between Wood Street and Lake Decatur.

The last phase of the downtown streetscape project will begin in the late summer as will the South Shores bridge project.

The City also expects funding approval from a state revolving loan fund to make critical repairs to the Lake Shore Drive sewer, a \$10 million local infrastructure improvement. The Water Department expects to continue the preventative maintenance on the Lake Decatur Dam, including the installation of a fish barrier to help prevent the entry of Asian Carp into Lake Decatur and work should begin to prepare the Oakley Sediment Basin to receive the sediment during the dredging of basins 1 and 3 of the lake.

The budget discussion occurred during a regularly scheduled study session, so no vote was taken. The council is expected to be presented with a final budget to vote on at its next regular meeting to be held on April 15.

PURPOSE OF CLOKEY PARK NEIGHBORHOOD

ASSOCIATION

*TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE,
PROACTIVELY ADDRESS JUVENILE
DELINQUENCY, SUPPORT
REVITALIZATION AND
STABILIZATION EFFORTS, AND
EFFECTIVELY NETWORK AS
RESIDENTS AND NEIGHBORS FOR A
BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 22, 2013

Meeting with Jay Scott

7 pm

Prairie Avenue Christian Church
(2201 E Prairie)

May 27, 2013

Monthly Informational Meeting

7 pm

Clokey Park (Weather permitting)

June 24, 2013

Monthly Informational Meeting

7 pm

Clokey Park (Weather Permitting)

Additional activities and events can
be checked at the Clokey Park
Facebook™ group page and
website:

[http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/
Clokey_Park](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Clokey_Park)

Council Approves Major Amendments to Supplement Water Supply, Support Local Industry

The City in conjunction with ADM took a significant step towards addressing long standing emergency water supply concerns Monday, amending a long standing agreement that will increase emergency community supplies while securing added operational water capacity for the global agribusiness company.

The Decatur City Council on March 4 voted 5-0 with one abstention to amend its raw water agreement with Archer Daniels Midland. The amendment will allow ADM to construct and operate additional wells, including two collector wells located 40 feet below Lake Decatur, which will greatly enhance the community's water supply. This well water will be drawn from a source other than Lake Decatur that is not currently being utilized, lessening the amount of water needed from Lake Decatur

As part of the amendment, the company would also provide a one-time \$2,500,000 payment to the City to develop alternative emergency water supplies. The city has for years been searching for additional sources of water in times of drought, and the changes approved will provide some relief in times of emergency.. The changes will also help one of the community's largest employers to be more efficient in its operations.

Other changes to the agreement include:

- ADM would provide up to \$1 million annually for improvements to Lake Decatur. The annual lake improvement reimbursement by ADM to the City averages \$782,000 annually so the \$1,000,000 annual contribution is not expected to be an issue.
- The addition of ADM recycled storm water as a raw water source for the company. This allowance enhances the local water supply in that it allows ADM another source of water for operations, thereby lessening the need for water to be drawn from Lake Decatur.
- Increasing the maximum amount of South Water Treatment Plant (SWTP) water that ADM can purchase daily from 12 million gallons to 14 million gallons per day.

In other business, the council unanimously approved amendments to the local zoning ordinance defining Consumer Credit Services - including Payday Loans, Title Loans and consumer installment lending establishments - and pawnbrokers as per State of Illinois regulatory definitions. The amendment will allow those uses in a B-2 commercial zoning district.

REMINDER

Meeting with Jay Scott
Monday, April 22, 2013
7 pm
Prairie Avenue Christian Church
(2201 E Prairie)



Find us on
Facebook

Connect with Your Neighbors On-Line

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association is on the Internet!

Keep up on your neighborhood with the click of the mouse.

The Clokey Park Neighborhood Association launched its own website through the neighborhoodlink.com website.

You can check housing values, discuss recent events, and find valuable informational links to local companies and government websites. A calendar of events is also posted.

*Check out our website at
www.neighborhoodlink.com/Clokey_Park/home*

Sign up as a Clokey Park Neighbor today! ❖

Clokey Park Neighborhood Association
c/o Jason A Butterick
1953 E Prairie
Decatur, IL 62521

