



## Upcoming City Events

- March 5 Community Movie Night
- April 1 Spirit of 76 Scholarship Application Deadline
- April 5 Election Day
- April 26 Easter Egg Hunt & Visit with the Easter Bunny
- May 9 Brush Pickup Begins
- June 3-5 70th Annual Milk Days Festival
- July 30-31 Tri-County Pro Rodeo



City of Harvard

### Municipal Information

[www.cityofharvard.org](http://www.cityofharvard.org)

Mayor ..... Jay Nolan  
 City Treasurer ..... Beverly Meseck  
 City Clerk ..... Andy Wells

**Aldermen**  
 Ward 1 ..... Chuck Marzahl  
 Ward 2 ..... Brian Leyden  
 Ward 3 ..... Phillip Ulmer  
 Ward 4 ..... Crystal Musgrove  
 Supt. Public Works ..... Scott Logan  
 Supt. Utilities ..... Rick Adams  
 Supt. Parks & Recreation ..... Carl Oppen  
 Darrell Perkins

**Municipal Staff**  
 City Administrator ..... Dave Nelson  
 Chief of Police ..... Dan Kazy-Garey  
 Administrative Assistant ..... Lori Moller  
 Supt. Public Works ..... Jim Kruckenberg  
 Supt. Utilities ..... Jim Grant  
 Supt. Parks & Recreation ..... Bob Burkart

**Building Department**  
 Community Development Director ..... Steve Santeler  
 Code Enforcement Officer ..... Clayton Brennecka

**City Phone Numbers**  
 City Hall ..... 943-6468  
 Fax: 943-4556  
 Dial-A-Ride ..... 943-7700  
 EMERGENCY ..... Dial 9-1-1  
 Police Dept. (non-emergency) ..... 943-4431  
 Fire/Rescue (non-emergency) ..... 943-6927  
 Harvard Diggins Library ..... 943-4671  
 Public Works Dept. ..... 943-0301  
 Public Works Garage ..... 943-4161  
 Swimming Pool ..... 943-4300  
 WWTP ..... 943-6626

City Council Meetings are held at City Hall on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.



Check the City's website at [www.cityofharvard.org](http://www.cityofharvard.org) to e-pay water bills and parking tickets.

There is also a drop box located in front of the City Hall building at 201 W. Diggins St.

**READ IT ALL ONLINE AT [WWW.CITYOFFHARVARD.ORG](http://WWW.CITYOFFHARVARD.ORG)**

## From the Mayor's Desk

By Mayor Jay Nolan

The 2010 Census data is in and Harvard's official population is now 9,447. That's an increase of 1,451 people since the last national Census in 2000, or a growth rate of 18.2%.



Firefighters did an exceptional job keeping the Ayer Street fire from spreading to nearby buildings. Teams from northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin worked together to contain the blaze. Now the job of rebuilding begins.

Harvard has two big opportunities to show off for visitors this summer. Harvard Milk Days will celebrate its 70th anniversary with '70 Years of Udder Fun' on June 3 - 5. The event started in 1942 and attracted nearly 25,000 people by the end of the decade. Learn more at [www.milkdays.com](http://www.milkdays.com)

The Tri-County Pro Rodeo comes to Milky Way Park in Harvard on July 30-31. Both performances are expected to sell out. You can follow the rodeo on Facebook at <http://tinyurl.com/TCPRodeo>.

## ELECTRIC CHOICE ON SPRING BALLOTS

Harvard area voters will have a special question to consider in the April 5 consolidated election.

Local ballots will include a referendum question asking voters whether 'the City of Harvard should have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such a program'.

Such authority would enable the City to potentially reduce electricity costs for residential homes and small businesses.

Residential electric rates are set every May by ComEd and remain in effect for 12 months. The City of Harvard would like to have other electric suppliers provide rate quotes to compete with those provided each spring by ComEd.

The City has been purchasing power (for water pumping and street lighting operations) from suppliers other than ComEd since 2007.

In an effort to make it easier for Illinois residents to obtain the lowest possible rates for electric power, the State of Illinois introduced the concept of 'electric choice' through the Illinois Power Agency Act of 2007.

Municipalities are now able to receive bids from multiple suppliers on behalf of the entire community.

If the rates obtained are lower than those bid by ComEd, the municipality can choose to move all residential (and small commercial) accounts that are located within the city limits to the new supplier. Many municipalities already set rates for trash hauling and cable service this way.

A successful referendum would give the City of Harvard the right to solicit competitive bids. The City would not be obligated to switch suppliers and would only do so if the City Council decided that it was in the best interest of residents to move to a lower cost supplier.

ComEd would continue to deliver the power over its transmission lines and users would continue to call ComEd in the event of a power outage. ComEd would continue to service residential accounts in Harvard, even if power is provided by another supplier.

There will be an 'opt out' procedure for residents and small business owners who do not want to participate in a lower rate program and prefer to continue purchasing power from ComEd.

Voters must approve the April 5 referendum in order to make electric choice possible in Harvard. You can learn more about this issue on the City's website, at [www.cityofharvard.org](http://www.cityofharvard.org).



## Parks & Recreation News

The Parks and Recreation Department is gearing up for the summer season. Information on pool passes, pool hours, swimming lessons and pool parties can be found on the City's website at [www.cityofharvard.org](http://www.cityofharvard.org).

Park shelters that are operated and maintained by the City are available for use on a first come, first served basis. Use of any shelter is considered to be non-exclusive, which means that, if there is a conflict with a scheduled or reserved activity, you will be asked to vacate. Call City Hall at (815) 943-6468 to reserve a pavilion for an event.



## Helpful Water Meter Tips

The City's water department receives many complaints about high water bills. Often, they are accompanied by requests to test water meters for accuracy. Water meters do not operate on electricity and meters cannot register usage unless there is water flowing. Meters actually tend to run a little slow and may not detect all of the water that passes through a meter, meaning that often residents are not billed for all of the water that they use.

Sometimes an on-site problem can exist. Here are some ways that homeowners can check to see if there is a leak within the home.

- Check your water meter. It has a little red dial or a black arrow shaped dial on the face that is a leak detector. If that dial is moving, water is being used.
- Check all of the toilets in the home for leaks or constant 'running'. Even a small leak will add up to

## Code Enforcement Keeps Our City Safe

**Code Enforcement Officer Clayton Brennecka** works in the Community Development Department of the City of Harvard. He helps to maintain the safety and appearance of existing structures and properties through routine inspections. Brennecka responds to complaints about housing and property maintenance code violations. He also patrols our community looking for violations, conducting systematic exterior inspections of neighborhoods, notifying property owners of violations and taking appropriate legal action to obtain compliance, where needed.



Clayton Brennecka, City of Harvard Code Enforcement Officer

If you have a complaint about junk, garbage, weeds, over occupancy or other code violations on a property, contact Brennecka by calling City Hall at (815) 943-6468, via email to [brennecka@cityofharvard.org](mailto:brennecka@cityofharvard.org), or by regular mail addressed to: City of Harvard Code Enforcement Officer, P.O. Box 310, Harvard, IL 60033.

- a lot of water usage in a short amount of time.
- Check your water softener. If the softener valve sticks, it will continue to use water until repaired.

Can't find a leak? Try keeping track of your water usage for a week. Document the numbers on the water meter face every day. The last two numbers are tenths, which are not used for billing purposes. The numbers to the left of the decimal point are the actual units used. Each unit equals 750 gallons. For example: If the reading on your meter is 225.00 it means that 225 units (225 x 750 gallons) have gone through your meter. You might be surprised at the amount of water that a household uses in a week. You might be even more surprised by how much water can be wasted by even a very small leak.

## NEED TO KNOW ...

### Brush Pickup Schedule

The City of Harvard picks up brush in May, July and October. Pickup will begin on these dates and continue until all Wards have been picked up: May 9, July 11, October 10.

To ensure that your brush is picked up, have all branches by the curb before pickup begins but no earlier than one week ahead of time. **All branches must be a minimum of three feet long and the longer the better.** Please stack branches with the cut end to the street. Stumps, bushes, plants, leaves and weeds will not be picked up by the City. The time limit for chipping brush piles is 20 minutes. After 20 minutes, the resident will be charged \$125/hour, with a minimum charge of \$50.00.

### Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The City's Utilities Department will be flushing dead end hydrants April 18 through May 6, as weather permits. Hydrant flushing may create rust and brown-colored water. The water is safe to drink but will stain any clothes that are washed in it. If you experience rusty water, let your faucet run until clear.

The Utilities Department would like to remind all residents and businesses not to put grease or any kind of rags down your sinks, toilets or drains. Grease and rags cause operational trouble with the lift stations and at the City's wastewater treatment plant, which creates additional maintenance and repair expense. Please help the City of Harvard keep operational costs down by being careful what goes down the drain.

### Preparing for Project Season

Once again, it is spring time and many homeowners are considering the construction of sheds, fences, pools or home additions. Permits are required prior to placing or erecting any of these structures on your property. Permits are generally processed over the counter, while you wait. At the most, they may take a day or two. If your project is built or managed by a contractor, he or she must be licensed by the City of Harvard. Licensing assures the City and homeowner that the contractor has proper liability insurance and coverage. Please call the Community Development Department with questions on building and zoning codes.

## From the POLICE DEPARTMENT

By Police Chief Dan Kazy-Garey



The Harvard City Council approved a new ordinance in November which is designed to keep our community safe.

The purpose of the new ordinance is to hold the owner of a motor vehicle financially accountable when their vehicle is operated, with their permission (either expressed or implied), and used in violation of certain laws. The vehicle will be declared a public nuisance and become subject to seizure and impoundment if operated for serious traffic offenses, street gang conduct and other criminal offenses.

The owner of a vehicle that is seized and impounded shall be subject to a \$500 bond, pending an administrative hearing, plus towing and storage costs to the applicable towing company before the vehicle will be released from police custody. The owner of a vehicle seized and impounded may then request a preliminary hearing before the Chief of Police to determine if probable cause existed to seize and impound the motor vehicle.

If the Chief of Police determines that probable cause was present to seize the vehicle, the owner of the vehicle may appeal the matter to an Evidentiary Hearing, where a hearing officer

will determine whether a preponderance of evidence was presented to prove that the motor vehicle was used in connection with a violation.

The ordinance provides our officers with the ability to seize vehicles from those individuals who should not be driving in our community, whether it is because they are under the influence of an intoxicant, do not have a license to drive or have been involved in some other serious traffic violation. It also gives our officers the ability to seize vehicles from suspects who commit criminal acts in our community. The City of Harvard has taken an aggressive stance against all of these types of behaviors.

Learn more about Ordinance #2010-125, *Seizure and Impoundment of Motor Vehicles*, in Chapter 15, Section 21 of the City of Harvard Ordinances. This information can be found on the City of Harvard website, at <http://www.cityofharvard.org/info/codes.asp>.

## FROM YOUR LIBRARY

By Karen Sutera, Director

There is a hint of spring in the air. It's a great time to get out of the house and visit the library to enjoy one of our many activities.

*Uncommon Movie Night* debuted last fall and it has been a big hit ever since. The program features noteworthy, but sometimes easily overlooked films on the first Thursday of each month at 6:15 p.m. Upcoming selections for March and April include *My Left Foot*, the story of handicapped Irish writer and artist Christy Brown, who used his left foot to communicate, and *Grizzly Man*, which tells the story of Timothy Treadwell, who lived and died among grizzly bears in Alaska. Check the library's website for specific dates and times.

We are thrilled to welcome Harvard musicians John and Janet Gaffney to the library for a special afternoon of Irish



music in honor of St. Patrick's Day. Their performance will take place on Sunday, March 13 at 2 p.m. and feature traditional Irish instruments such as the uilleann pipes, the bodhran and the Celtic harp.

Take a stroll through the beautiful art on display on the bookcases in the library's non-fiction section. Created by the McHenry County Plein Air Painters, the works in this collection were created in 'plein air' (in the open air). The paintings feature McHenry County Conservation District sites and will be on display through the month of March.

Be sure to PEEP into the library in April to learn more about our 'PEEP Into a Good Book' contest. The contest is open to anyone who creates a diorama depicting his or her favorite book using marshmallow chicks and bunnies. Need some ideas? Stop by the library for suggestions and a contest entry form.

**Harvard Diggins Library**  
 900 East McKinley Street  
 Harvard IL 60033  
 815-943-4671  
[www.harvard-diggins.org](http://www.harvard-diggins.org)

Why stay home when there is so much for you to do at the library?

**Advance Ticket Prices**  
 Adults - \$10 (\$15 at gate)  
 Children - \$5 (\$7 at gate)