

Mayor's Minute: June 19, 2025

Well, this time I have good news and bad news. So, we will do the bad news first. You may have already heard that Illinois American has done it again. They have raised our water rates once more. It is only about a quarter of what they did at the end of 2023, but you will see a small increase in your bills. Illinois American has no regulatory restrictions on how often or how much they can raise our rates and we are literally at their "mercy." This is why Alluvial is such an important project. We may not be able to lower our rates once Alluvial is up and running, but as a charter member of the project and members of the board, we will have direct input into the operations of the water plant. We will be able to have a voice in what our rates are and when or if they must be changed. Right now, we all just have to deal with rates that are beyond our control.

Now, on to much more exciting news. The CEJA funds will be released in August. Bunker Hill will be receiving about \$50,000 which will be used to create a comprehensive engineering plan to develop the Resi. This plan is critical to obtaining further grant funding for upcoming projects. We plan to create a number of full-service camp sites, build a bathroom/shower house, develop primitive camp sites, upgrade pavilions, repair the bandstand, and many other ideas. Once we have the renovations and upgrades done, we will be able to more fully use the Resi for things like concerts in the park, lake activities, and other city or organization sponsored events. It will be great to have another nice venue for community events. We should be receiving CEJA funds for two more years and we look forward to seeing what we can do with them to make the Resi park even better.

We have also created, with SIUE's help, a Strategic Doing Focus Group. This group has a core of eight community members from diverse backgrounds. We have some city officials, business owners, emergency volunteers, community event sponsors, educators, and even a high school student in this core group. They will evaluate ideas for developing a comprehensive economic and community development plan. This is another essential component of obtaining grant funding for many projects. We will also identify and create at least one specific project for which we will enlist the help of the community of Bunker Hill so that we can work together to create positive and economically beneficial change. Think about whether you would be willing to work for a few hours a month to make our community better.

I wanted to close with a shout out to the Ladies' Auxiliary. They hosted a Quilts of Valor ceremony for over seventy of Bunker Hill's veterans from WW 1 to Vietnam. It is an honor to have these dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to recognize the men and women who served our country in the military. We also had a great day with the Fishing Derby hosted by Third Street Realty and the Chamber of Commerce over the Father's Day weekend. The Chamber had about seventy people and thirty families attend. There was also a great presentation by IDNR's Scott Isringhausen about fish and critters at the lake. What a great way to encourage our families and support the men who work hard to take care of them.

Remember to reach out to someone you don't know and chat this week. Let's work to create a friendly, welcoming city because have a great place to live. Let's make everyone welcome!

John Chapman, Mayor