

# **Community Notice for May 2022**

## **Eau Claire Village is an Equal Opportunity Provider & Employer**

### **HAVE A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

The Village Council meets the Third Monday of each month at 5:30 PM. We look forward to seeing you and would like to have your input and ideas.

#### **Broadband high speed fiber internet information:**

Many residents have seen MEC from Cassopolis (Midwest Energy Cooperative) and some Western Telecom trucks installing fiber in some areas of the Village. What we have found out is that in 2020 when the Federal Government was preparing the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA for infrastructure improvements including bringing reliable high-speed internet throughout all areas of the USA. The Federal Government made coverage maps and these maps showed that all of Berrien County already has great internet service, the FEC then put areas that they thought needed service up for auction and only a couple of pockets in the Village were "won" by MEC & not the entire Village due to the maps.

Berrien County then started an internet task force because they know that in the County's rural areas, we don't have options or good coverage. The County is sharing 6 million dollars of its ARPA award money throughout the area to achieve Broadband coverage. The Village received an email from MEC for the cost to build out the rest of the Village with fiber. MEC stated that 3 miles of fiber need to be laid at a cost of roughly \$300,000.00, the Village itself is only receiving a little over \$62,000.00 in ARPA money of which \$20,000.00 has been committed to a mandatory wastewater project.

The Village needs letters of support to apply for the County Grant. The letters can be brief and to the Villages attention. You can email letters or drop them off at the Village Hall. It would be helpful if your current internet speed is included in your letters. You can Google "test my internet speed" and a test will be run that takes about 30 seconds. If you have speeds of 25/3 Mbps upload then you are underserved!

For more information on the County's bcbt program you can go to <https://www.berriencounty.org/1764/Berrien->

Would you like to see change in the Village? Would you like to be a part of planning? Would you like to see the Village grow & have more modern services available? Help take care of the future of the village! We are in need of a Village resident that is passionate and cares about the village! The Planning Commission is in need of one member as soon as possible. Please contact the village clerk for more information at 269-461-6173

#### **For Burn Permits**

**Call Berrien Township Hall at 269-461-6925**

Burn Permits can be obtained by calling the Township Office between the hours of 9am-3:30 pm. During favorable weather, permits can be issued up to 4 days.

Please continue to help us with service line inventory. Directions and photos are available on our website [eauclairemi.com](http://eauclairemi.com). Look under important notice please read immediately for details. You may email the results to [eauclaireclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eauclaireclerk@gmail.com) or contact our office at 269-461-6173

### **Reservations for Village Park Pavilions**

Birthday, graduation, or one of many get togethers? Rent one of the park pavilions at Veterans or Elizabeth Park. Picnic Tables, Electricity, Grill, Food Table, Playground Equipment are all available.

Village Residents & Non-Residents: will pay a \$25.00 Deposit which is refundable after the park areas are cleaned up and if there is no damage to the pavilion. Non-Residents: will also be charged a \$50.00 Rental Fee.

*The parks cannot be reserved by non-residents before 90 days of their event.*

Reservations can be made by calling the Eau Claire Village Hall at  
(269) 461-6173.

Your deposit will have to be made before the date can be held for you.

**Please Note Parks cannot be reserved for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July!**

### **The Cherry Festival (a smaller version of it ) is Back!!**

The festival is back after a 2 year hiatus due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. A parade is planned as well as music & activities in Veterans Park. The festival needs more volunteers and more donations in order to continue. For more information, please contact Mary Cantwell @ 269-461-6114



### **Get Ready For**

### **The Eau Claire and Berrien Springs Village Wide Sidewalk & Yard Sales!!**

The Village Wide yard sales will be held on June 23, 24, 25, 26, 2022

There is a \$6.00 Permit Fee per Business or Residence participating.

**The Deadline to sign up to be on the listing is Thursday, June 16, 2022 by 4:00 P.M.**

Forms and Fee are to be returned to the Berrien Springs or Eau Claire Village Hall

Advertising will be done by the municipalities. Listings will be available on the website: [villageofberriensprings.com](http://villageofberriensprings.com) & [eauclairemi.com](http://eauclairemi.com)