



## Washington Township Changes Hours at Recycling Center

After months of discussion, the Washington Township Board has decided to change the hours of the Recycling Center. The Recycling Center has been open 24 hours a day 7 days a week since its inception and is only outfitted with plastic, glass and paper recycling bins. However, in recent months, the area has become a dumping ground for electronics, hazardous waste, tires, furniture, appliances, paint and other non-recyclable items. These items are removed and discarded by either Township or Road District staff at a cost to the taxpayers of Washington Township. Most of these items are typically dumped over the weekends when the Washington Township Center is closed, so the decision was made to limit access to the site after hours and on weekends.

A gated fence has been installed and effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, the new hours of operation are:

**Monday - Friday - 7am - 7pm / 2nd Saturday of each month - 10am - 2pm / Sunday - Closed.**

The Recycling Center was opened in 2009 and originally was a Will County Electronic Recycling Site along with recycling bins for plastic, glass and paper. In 2016 the 'vendor' contracted by Will County to pickup the electronic recycling terminated their contract with the county and as of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 all the electronic recycling drop off locations were closed in the county. This of course included Washington Township. Will County has opened an Electronics Recycling Site at the Peotone Police Department at 208 E. Main St in Peotone. This site is only open on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5pm-7pm (lines will be cutoff at 7pm). There is a limit of two televisions per vehicle and ID is required to prove you are a resident of Will County.

**For more information about recycling and upcoming recycling events in Will County please visit the Will County Green website at [willcountygreen.com](http://willcountygreen.com).**

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## Washington Township Hosts Open House November 5th

The Washington Township Board has scheduled an "Open House" for Sunday, November 5th from 2pm to 4pm. All residents are invited to meet their elected officials and take a tour of the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher, which was opened 15-years ago in 2002. There will be historic records from the township on display and refreshments will be served.

The Center sits on 7 acres and houses all township offices and also includes a large meeting room where local governmental meetings are held including the: Washington Township Board, Washington Township Drainage District, Washington Township Planning Commission and Washington Township Community Building Board of Managers.

In addition, the Center is home to the Washington Township Road District offices and over 9,000 square feet of garage and shop space for Road District vehicles and equipment. The west end of the building is owned by the Beecher School District and serves as a repair and maintenance shop for school district buses and vans. There is also a 60' vehicle wash bay used by all the entities. The grounds surrounding the facility are used for school district bus parking, a shared card-controlled fuel system, a 1200-ton salt storage dome shared by the Village of Beecher and Township plus paved parking for over 50 vehicles.

**From Supervisor Mike Stanula**

Hello again neighbors. The fall season has always been a busy time of year for me and I am sure for you too. Your Township is no exception. Many, many events are scheduled in the next few months. One in particular will be our open house, more information will be found in this newsletter.

Now for a little history, Washington Township was founded in 1856 and officials first met in a neighbor's log cabin. The township officials conducted business in various places until the middle 1920's when the Township Community Building was built. (In 1929, Will County declared that the Community building was the best built of its kind) For years the township operated out of the lower level of the Township Community Building and the Highway Department was located on the southwest side of town. But, did you know that this year the "new" Township Building on the east side of Beecher turned 15.

Back in 2002 Washington Township, the Highway Department, the Village of Beecher and the school district collaborated on an intergovernmental agreement and built the Washington Township Center so as to best serve our community. Intergovernmental collaboration is seldom seen in this age of bias politics. I think that the people of our community have always had an open mind and believe in doing what is right.

That is why Beecher is truly a great place to be!

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**From the Beecher Fire Protection District**

Dear Neighbors,

Did you know that your clothes dryer is probably one of the most dangerous appliances in your home? That's because even when they are working properly, dryers and washing machines were the cause of one out of every 22 home structure fires in that last ten years.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) the leading cause of home clothes dryer and washer fires was failure to clean the lint filter (32%), followed by unclassified mechanical failure or malfunction (22%). Eight percent were caused by some type of electrical failure or malfunction.

There are some simple easy steps you can take to make sure this modern convenience doesn't become a fire statistic:

1. Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional. This is important because, in addition to the electrical connection, many dryers require a gas line connection as well. Also, make sure you use rigid or flexible metal venting (NOT PLASTIC venting).
2. Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
3. Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
4. Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you. The cost is about \$75.
5. Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
6. Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
7. Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
8. Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

Using these 8 simple tips, you can reduce the dangers of a dryer fire in your home. Stay Safe!

**Joseph M. Falaschetti, Jr. - Deputy Fire Chief**

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## It's Harvest Season - Safety Tips for Sharing the Road with Our Farming Community

Washington Township is an agricultural township with hundreds of farms within our boundaries. We thank our farmers for all they do to feed our nation and ask everyone to use caution during the planting season. Farming equipment has become much larger over the years and according to the National Safety Council, approximately 1/3 of fatal tractor accidents occur on public roads. In order to decrease the chance of a collision, motorists should follow these six rules of the road:



1. **Slow down when you see a piece of agricultural equipment.**  
Most farm equipment is designed to travel at speeds of only 15-25 mph
2. **Watch for Slow-Moving-Vehicle (SMV) signs.**  
SMVs are required for vehicles traveling less than 25 mph.
3. **Watch for hand signals.**  
Just because a tractor veers right does not mean the operator is pulling over to allow someone to pass. The size of farm equipment often dictates the necessity of wide turns.
4. **Pass farm equipment cautiously.**  
Even when passing safely and legally, the turbulence created by a vehicle may cause the machinery to sway and become unstable. Do not always expect operators to drive their equipment onto the shoulder of the road. Driving with one set of tires on loose-surfaced shoulders substantially increases the risk of overturn.
5. **Watch for flashing amber lights.**  
This type of light often marks the far right and left of farm equipment. Also watch for reflective tape marking extremities and sides of equipment.
6. **Remember that agricultural operators have a right to drive their equipment on the road and during harvest season, are sometimes out late at NIGHT!**

Please be alert and exercise patience when driving near or passing farm equipment on the roadway. Help us to make this year's harvest season a safe one!

**Jerry Meyer - Highway Commissioner**

### Washington Township Food Pantry

The Washington Township Food Pantry is open to any Washington Township individual or family that is in need of help. Offering canned foods, paper goods, cleaning items, frozen food and at times, fresh products, the pantry strives to provide quality items for those in need.

As the holiday season approaches, we ask that you consider a donation to the pantry to help those, who are less fortunate, get through the holiday season. If you would like to help, items can be dropped off at the Washington Township Center on Monday through Friday from 9am - 3pm. The pantry also accepts cash donations that is used only to purchase items from the Chicago Food Depository.

The pantry is open on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month from 9am - 10am AND from 6pm - 7pm. Please call Trustee Paul Goldrick at (708) 516-2594 for additional details or if you need assistance. Many thanks to the volunteers who assist at the pantry!



***"People Helping People - Feed the Hungry"***

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## News from the Washington Township Community Building Board of Managers

In May of this year, the newly elected Community Hall Board of Managers (Ron Mazurek, Teresa Peterson and Dan Waterman) thanked the outgoing Board Members Harold Karstensen and Joe Cackowski for their service on the Board. Harold received additional recognition for his dedication in serving 23 years!

We have completed several major projects to continue updating the Community Hall. All of the fluorescent lighting was upgraded to LED lighting through a program with Commonwealth Edison in which ComEd paid for almost 80% of the costs for the upgrade. The new lights are not only brighter, but should also pay for themselves within 10 months by significantly reducing our electric bill. Following the severe rain in July, it became extremely evident that the roof on the Community Hall needed to be replaced as there was extensive water damage caused by the storm. A new roof was installed in August and an insurance claim was filed to help off-set some of the costs of repair for the damage.

There are also several other projects scheduled to be completed this year. One of the main projects is the repair of the outside wall on the South side of the building. The brickwork and windows will be repaired and replaced starting later in October. The project is expected to take approximately 10 days and should help restore the look and stability of the main entrance area. We will also be painting the main room downstairs and hallway of the Community Hall in the coming weeks, giving it a fresh look to match the new lighting.

Several other projects are being planned and options explored for implementation over the next 3 years. We will keep the community informed as projects are approved and completed. In all cases, we will continue in our efforts to get the highest quality results with the most financially responsible options. We take great pride in the Community Hall and look forward to helping maintain it as a shining jewel for the people of Washington Township!

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### **UPCOMING EVENT!**

Christmas Bizarre  
Community Building  
673 Penfield St.  
Dec 9, 2017 - 9am to 4pm  
Santa arrives at 2pm



### **Did You Know!**

The Washington Township Community Building is one of two Community Buildings in the entire state of Illinois! Dedicated in 1929, the building is still the centerpiece of downtown Beecher. The building is funded by its own levy and governed by a Board of Managers, who are elected every four years at the Consolidated Elections. The Board of Managers are solely responsible for maintaining the building and ensuring the building is being used as specified by township code. This unique building is available for special events and is typically being used by local groups or private parties 7-days a week. To learn more on how to use the building for your special occasion, please visit the Washington Township website and click on the "Township Community Building" link.

Your current Board of Managers are **Ron Mazurek, Teresa Peterson** and **Dan Waterman**.

**FROM CLERK JOE BURGESS**

The Washington Township Clerk’s office provides the following services to all Washington Township residents!

- Voter registration
- Early Voting services during elections
- RTA Reduced Fare Permits. If you are a Senior Citizen or a Person with a Disability you can apply for a free or reduced fare permit, which can be used on all RTA services.
- Free Notary Public Service
- Temporary or Permanent Parking Placards
- Public Information - township records are available on our website or through the use of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- The Clerk’s office also maintains the township’s website and mails the biannual newsletter

**Highlights from Recent Washington Township Board Meetings**

- May 1 - Approved a \$1000 sponsorship to the Beecher 4th of July Commission
- May 1 - Approved a \$1000 sponsorship to the Beecher Lion’s Club “Summerfest”
- June 5 - Approved the Road District Budget totaling \$789,400
- June 5 - Approved the Town Account budget totaling \$348,193
- June 6 - Approved the Prevailing Wage Ordinances for Washington Township & the Washington Township Road District
- July 6 - Approved a one year Electrical Aggregation agreement with Constellation Energy
- Aug 7 - Approved a quote totaling \$5,088 to replace the Meeting Room carpet at the Washington Township Center
- Aug 7 - Approved a quote totaling \$3,850 to install fencing at the Washington Township Center
- Sep. 7 - Changed the hours of the Washington Township Recycling Center
- Sep. 7 - Approved a \$1000 sponsorship to the Beecher Youth Commission

**Your Township Officials:**

**Supervisor**

Mike Stanula

[supervisor@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:supervisor@washingtontownshipil.com)

**Clerk**

Joe Burgess

[clerk@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:clerk@washingtontownshipil.com)

**Assessor**

Carol Ann Blume

[assessor@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:assessor@washingtontownshipil.com)

**Highway Commissioner**

Jerry Meyer

[commissioner@](mailto:commissioner@washingtontownshipil.com)

[washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:washingtontownshipil.com)

**Trustees**

Paul Goldrick

Mark Herlitz

Tracy Heldt

George Obradovich

**Office Coordinator / General Assistance**

Teresa Peterson

[transportation@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:transportation@washingtontownshipil.com)

**OR**

[ga@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:ga@washingtontownshipil.com)

Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Joe Burgess

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UPCOMING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING DATES

The Washington Township Board meets on the FIRST Monday of every month (except on holidays or as noted) at the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road. All meetings start at 7 pm and the public is urged to attend our meetings!

Public commentary is always welcome. Please call Supervisor Mike Stanula at 946-2026 if you need assistance.

- November 6, 2017
- December 4, 2017
- January 4, 2018
- February 5, 2018
- March 5, 2018
- March 26, 2018



**Assessor's Office Hours**  
 Assessor Carol Ann Blume hours are by appointment only. Please call Carol at 708-231-1175 to schedule an appointment.



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## Upcoming Community Events

- \* Oct 28 @ 4pm - 7pm - "Trunk or Treat" at Fireman's Park / sponsored by the Beecher Youth Commission
- \* Nov 4 @ 9am - 3pm - Beecher Women's Club "Very Bazaar Sale" at the Washington Township Community Building
- \* Nov 5 @ 2pm to 4pm - Washington Township Open House at the Washington Township Center
- \* Nov 15 @ 6:30pm - Senior Movie Night at the Washington Township Center - "Wonder Woman" starring Gal Gadot & Chris Pine
- \* Nov 18 @ 2pm - 5pm - "Nerf Obstacle Course" at BJHS / sponsored by the Beecher Youth Commission
- \* Dec 5 @ 6:30pm - Washington Township Senior Holiday Dinner at the Beecher Amvet Hall
- \* Dec 9 @ 9am - 4pm - Christmas Bazaar at the Washington Township Community Building

### Beecher Women's Club to Host "Very Bazaar Sale"

The Beecher Women's Club will be hosting its first "Very Bazaar Sale", on Saturday, November 4, 2017. The sale will be held in the Beecher Community Hall, 673 Penfield Street, from 9 AM-3 PM. Admission is free.

What is a "Very Bazaar Sale"? It is part craft show/bazaar, vendor, and garage sale. It is a very odd mix, but it is going to be a great place to find local vendors who sell items like jewelry, essential oils, holiday items and crafts. There will also be local friends with interesting garage sale items. The Beecher Library Foundation will be selling some great books for gifts, and our BHS Cheerleaders will be selling homemade caramel corn. The Women's Club will be serving hot dogs, and other refreshments, to tempt you if you're hungry.



To add to your shopping pleasure, the Zion Lutheran School is also holding a vendor sale on the same day. Be a part of this great day and support the Beecher Women's Club and Zion School! What a great opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done! Two great events minutes away from each other! Shop local! Support Beecher!

### **WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP RECYCLE CENTER**

#### **HOURS:**

**Monday - Friday 7am - 7p / 2nd Saturday of the month - 10am - 2pm / Sunday - CLOSED**

Bring your recyclables to the north side of the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher.

***Washington Township NO LONGER offers Electronic Recycling.***

Please **NO** household trash, furniture, appliances, paint, construction materials, light bulbs, carpeting or used oil.

#### **WE RECYCLE:**

- Paper - Cardboard - Plastic & Glass - Clothing - Shoes - Books

# Washington Township Senior News

## 12th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert

On December 5 at 6:30 pm, Washington Township will be sponsoring a free holiday dinner and concert for our seniors at the Beecher Amvet Hall. This is one of our biggest events and we served a delicious dinner to approximately 120 seniors last year. Once again, music will be provided by a local group.

Keep the date open and call us if you need a ride as we will be happy to assist you.



## “Sounds of the Season” Senior Bus Trip Planned

Washington Township is planning its annual senior bus trip to see the “Sounds of the Season” holiday concert at Olivet Nazarene University on December 8 at 7 pm. Entry to the concert is free and there is no reserved seating.

This is a “must see” event as Olivet's program features innovative performances of favorite holiday music by their many talented groups and ensembles.

For more information or to reserve your seat on the bus please call the Washington Township office at (708) 946-2026 Ext. 2 between the hours of 9am - 3pm.



**For more information about Will-Ride or our own Dial-a-Ride transportation program, call the township offices at (708) 946-2026.**

## Pizza & Movie!

Washington Township’s very first Senior Movie was held in 2006 and our 50th movie will be held on November 15.

On Saturday, January 20 at 1:30 pm, we will celebrate our 51st movie with a “Pizza & Movie Matinee”. The township will provide pizza prior to the start of our movie and of course “pie” for dessert. Seating is limited so please call our office at 708-946-2026 to reserve a spot.

In case of incimate weather, (blizzard, heavy snow or poor driving conditions) the movie will be held on January 27th.

## Important dates for our Seniors:

### November 15 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch “Wonder Woman”. Refreshments will be served!

### December 5 - 6:30 pm

Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert at the Beecher Amvet Hall - A free dinner followed by a holiday concert.

### January 20- 1:30 PM

Senior PIZZA & MOVIE MATINEE - Refreshments will be served!

### March 2018 (date to be determined)

Senior Breakfast - Free breakfast and special presentations designed for our Seniors!

## SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT

### “Wonder Woman”

Starring Gal Gadot & Chris Pine

November 15, 2017 @ 6:30 PM

Washington Township Center  
30200 Town Center Road  
Beecher

Coffee and dessert will be served during a brief intermission.



## Winter Tips for Seniors

A single fall can cause debilitating and costly injuries, but a few simple tips can help older adults stay safe and healthy through the winter months.

### 1. Tread carefully

To help avoid falls, wear appropriate shoes outdoors and put road salt, sand or kitty litter on sidewalks and driveways.

### 2. Avoid overwork

Find someone to handle snow shoveling and other strenuous outdoor tasks.

### 3. Exercise indoors

Staying indoors does not mean being inactive. Keep in shape by walking in place, using a stationary bike or working out with a fitness video, available at the local library.

### 4. Bundle up

Cold temperatures are a serious threat to seniors. Wear layers!

### 5. Keep the heat on

Inadequate indoor heat also can cause hypothermia. Keep home temperatures above 65 degrees and dress in layers to maintain body temperature.

### 6. Clear the air

If you heat your home with a fireplace, gas furnace or gas-powered space heater, invest in carbon monoxide detectors, which can be purchased at a home improvement store for as little as \$30.

### 7. Socialize

Depression is more common in the winter months, make efforts to spend time with family, friends and neighbors, and when weather makes visiting difficult, pick up the phone for a chat.

## Washington Township Dial-a-Ride Service

The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service is available for seniors and disabled residents. The service is designed to offer transportation to these residents anywhere within Washington Township including: local shopping, nursing homes, restaurants, hair appointments, medical appointments, or to just visit friends. The township has partnered with PACE to offer this service. Our local drivers are PACE certified and our van is equipped with a wheel chair lift.

The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service operates every *Wednesday & Thursday* between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and only within Washington Township. To schedule an appointment please call us at (708) 231-1172 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3 p.m. Appointments can be made up until Monday for your trip. Our last pickup will be at 1:30 p.m. The service is free but a donation of \$2 one-way or \$4 round trip is suggested.

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**Schedule appointments between the hours of 6 am to 5 pm, Monday-Friday  
(A 24-hour notice up to 7 days advance notice is required)**

**Buses Operate - Monday - Friday 8 am to 5 pm - Weekend & holiday hours are not available**

**Will-Ride “suggested” donations for rides outside Washington Township  
\$4 one way or \$8 round trip**

**You MUST register with Washington Township to be eligible for Will-Ride**

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