



FALL NEWSLETTER

Township Offers Early Voting for Upcoming Elections

The 2016 General Election will be held on November 8. The Clerk’s office will once again be holding early voting and is urging people to utilize early voting if they can’t get to the polls on Election Day or just prefer to not deal with lines and crowds.

Early Voting will be held at the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher on Monday through Friday from October 24 through November 4 from 9 am to 3 pm. All residents of Washington Township (Beecher) are eligible to vote at our site.

The Will County Clerk’s office has now made the process easier and faster. Voters simply need an I.D. to receive their ballot and once they complete a ballot, the voter inserts their ballot into a county provided ballot counter, which is the same type of units used on Election Day. The process is simple and 100% secure.

If you are interested in becoming an Election Judge please contact the Will County Clerk’s Office at (815) 740-4617. You must be a registered Will County voter and attend a two-hour training class in order to work as an Election Judge.

Voting is a fundamental right of democracy and one vote, your vote, can make a difference in the outcome of an election.

Trustee Mike Mach Resigns

At the October 3rd Board meeting, Trustee Mike Mach resigned as a Washington Township Trustee. Mike was completing his first term as a trustee and resigned due to personal commitments.

Mike has served the public for nearly his entire life. He retired from the Will County Sheriff’s Office in April of 2015 after serving as a Deputy for over 25 years. He also served on the Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) before being elected as a Trustee and was the Boards current liaison to the WTPC. Mike has even indicated that he would consider going back to serve on the WTPC. Dedicated and always caring about his community, Mike will be missed.

The Township Board has 60 days to appoint Mike’s replacement with the only stipulation being that the newly appointed trustee must be the same political party (Republican) as the previous trustee.

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From Supervisor Mike Stanula...

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and I wish you nothing but health and happiness as we approach the change of seasons and the end of another year. Your Township is also healthy and happy as well. There have been some changes around here but with the dedicated Board that we have I believe that these changes have been a good thing.

First if you have been a regular rider on our Senior Bus Service then you know that awhile back we joined the county's Will-Ride program, which enabled those needing transportation out of Washington Township for medical appointments a low cost ride. But did you know that we also retained a bus for a Dial-a-Ride service. On Wednesdays our bus can pick you up and take you just about anywhere in Washington Township. Just call Teresa at the township offices and she can set you up. So by teaming Will-Ride up with Dial-a-Ride and changing the way we thought about transportation we saved dollars and still provide a needed service.

Here is another big change....Electronic recycling. The entire county has gone through reorganization as far as electronic recycling goes. Washington Township had sponsored a site for a long while, but when funding from the county dried up and the contract for the recycling vendor expired and was not renewed, electronic recycling changed. There were some proposals to us on how electronics were to be handled at our facility. But the reality was that the Washington Township grounds are just not appropriate for how recycling was now to be handled. The good news is the Village of Peotone is now set up for electronic recycling on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month and residents of our Township may use that facility for their electronics. Our grounds are much cleaner now as a result and we still have somewhere to bring our old computers and televisions.

Lastly the upcoming November 8th Election. Did you know that four Amendments to the Constitution, 15th, 19th, 24th and 28th dating all the way back to 1870, all pertain to your right to vote. It's a big deal. Your vote today will create changes tomorrow. So do something historic this November 8th and please vote. Because it's one of the things that make Beecher a Great place to be!

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"



From Road Commissioner Jerry Meyer...

It is that time of year again. The mornings are getting cooler and the sun is getting up later with every passing day. We call that fall, a beautiful time of the year; the color of the trees start to turn and it is harvest time for the farmers. With the fall harvest we have to take extra care in our driving habits. The farm equipment on the roads is big and slow moving, so if you see farm equipment, give them room and slow down. They are doing their job to put food on our table.

Here is a recap on our year.

The Road District resealed over 6 miles of roads with tar and chips, which includes the Corning Road project with two layers of tar and chips. As with other years, we worked with Will and Peotone Townships, without their assistance, we would not get as much resurfacing done. When neighboring districts work together, we combine our resources and save all the Townships tax money. By the way, we used over 35,000 gallons of tar and 1,000 tons of chips to complete our road projects this year.

Every year we also do “deep patching” on bad spots on roads as necessary. Unfortunately, we found that there was just black dirt under the stone in several spots. Black dirt is the original base on these roads and the dirt cannot handle the heavy traffic and it causes the road to break up. In this case, we have to dig out the bad spots and fill with stone, compact the stone, and re-tar and chip. Patching this way takes a lot of time but with this process, the road will last a long time. Right now, we are deep patching on Corning Road west of Route 1.

We will start mowing roadside ditches in a couple of weeks. As in previous years, we are going to mow fence line to fence line as soon as the crops are out of the field. We mow the entire “right-of-way” to keep the snow from blowing on the roads and to keep the small brush in check. With all the rain we have had in the last few months, I am hoping we can get through all the mowing without leaving deep tracks. If we can't get do it all, we will concentrate on the bad spots where we know blowing snow accumulates.

That brings us to the other season that some do not like at all – winter. My daughter moved to Charleston, South Carolina for school and when she left she told me she was not going to miss the cold and the snowstorms. Well guess what, she did not have a snowstorm, but she did endure her first hurricane, Matthew. She was told to evacuate from her house, but went to a friend's house instead. She told me it was just like a snowstorm, but “warmer”. She did say she used the same winter storm preparation tips to get ready for the hurricane. It doesn't matter where you are in the country you have to be prepared for changing weather. So here are some things to think about having on hand when an emergency happens. Keep enough food and water plus have some kind of communication (radio, scanner and batteries for them) cash, medication, extra clothing and personal products. It's also a good idea to have important telephone numbers for loved ones and your insurance company, just to name a few. For a more extensive list go on line to <http://www.willcountyema.org>.

By the way, my daughter is just fine. She was out of her house for two days and upon returning everything was fine. So do your part: **be prepared.**

Thank you for your time and have a good and **safe** Holiday Season.

Jerry

Driving Safely on Icy Roads

1. Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
2. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
3. Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.
4. Keep your lights and windshield clean. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
5. Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
6. Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas or on exposed roadways like bridges.
7. Don't pass snowplows and salt trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind.
8. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.
9. If you have to leave your vehicle stranded on the roadway please leave a contact number so we can call when the roads are open.

Thank you to Road Commissioner Jerry Meyer for contributing these safe "winter" driving tips.



Corning Road gets resurfaced

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP RECYCLE CENTER

The recycling collection center is open 7 days a week! 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

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 Fax 781.547.3674
 sue.teske@cbexchange.com

Residential Brokerage

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

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Your Right To Know

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provides that all government bodies make public records readily available for inspection. Washington Township has always been committed to transparency in government and proudly complies with FOIA. You can access our agendas, minutes, recent budgets and many other items by visiting our website and clicking on the “Public Information” button on our homepage.

Since FOIA was initiated, Washington Township has responded to over 50 FOIA requests asking for more than 100 different items and totaling well over 1000 pages of information. We continue to add more items to our Public Information page on our website to help our residents easily find what they are looking for.

Don’t see what your looking for? Contact Clerk Joe Burgess at (708) 946-2026 Ext 1176

Disability Placards Available

Did you know that if you become temporarily disabled due to surgery or another unforeseen condition, you are probably eligible to receive a “temporary” parking placard and we have them.

For more information please visit our website or call our office today.

Your Township Officials:

Supervisor

Mike Stanula

supervisor@washingtontownshipil.com

Clerk

Joe Burgess

clerk@washingtontownshipil.com

Assessor

Carol Ann Blume

assessor@washingtontownshipil.com

Highway Commissioner

Jerry Meyer

commissioner@

washingtontownshipil.com

Trustees

Paul Goldrick

Mark Herlitz

VACANT

George Obradovich

Office Coordinator / General Assistance

Teresa Peterson

transportation@washingtontownshipil.com

OR

ga@washingtontownshipil.com

Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Joe Burgess



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 7, 2016
- December 5, 2016
- January 2, 2017
- February 6, 2017
- March 6, 2017
- March 27, 2017



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

Washington Township Planning Commission

The Washington Township Planning & Zoning Commission is made up of individuals who live in the Township. They have been approved by the Township Board of Trustees and volunteer their time and services to the Commission. The WTPC reviews and provides the Board with recommendations pertaining to land use. Such land use issues would be subdividing and re-zoning of land parcels, ECHO (elderly care housing opportunities) and residential and/or commercial subdivisions. The WTPC has also developed a Comprehensive plan as a guideline that establishes the direction of present and future growth in our community.

The WTPC meets as necessary, if you have questions about land use or would like to be on a meeting agenda please contact the Township offices at 946-2026.

From Assessor Carol Ann Blume

To our friends in Pheasant Lake Estates, who receive this newsletter, please note that although you have a Beecher mailing address, you are located in Crete Township. All questions regarding your property tax bill should be directed to Crete Township at (708) 672-8279 or (708) 672-8291.

Just a reminder to ALL our residents, please check your tax bills closely to verify you are receiving all the tax exemptions that you may be entitled to including Homestead, Senior Freeze and Disabled Veterans exemptions.

If you are in need of an application or have any questions please contact me at 708-231-1175 and I will send you an application.

Highlights from Recent Washington Township Board Meetings

- May 2 - Approved a \$1000 sponsorship to CASA of Will County. CASA is a non-profit organization “dedicated to the needs of abused and neglected children from every Township in Will County”. The organization spends approximately \$1000 per year per child to provide “advocates”, who work with the courts to place these children in safe, caring and permanent homes. CASA worked with four children from Washington Township last year.
- May 2 -Approved a \$500 sponsorship to the Beecher 4th of July Commission
- June 6 - Approved the Road District Budget totaling \$806,322
- June 6 - Approved the Town Account budget totaling \$322,887
- June 6 - Approved “An Ordinance Authorizing The Execution Of An Intergovernmental Agreement By And Between The Village Of Beecher, Washington Township, and the Beecher Fire Protection District To Establish The Beecher Emergency Services And Disaster Agency (ESDA)”
- June 6 - Approved Prevailing Wage Ordinances for Washington Township & the Washington Township Road District
- Aug 1 - Approved a quote totaling \$2900 for roof repairs to the Washington Township Center
- Oct 3 - Accepted the resignation of Trustee Mike Mach
- Oct 3 - Approved \$660 for the Beecher Preservation Committee to be used to purchase plaques for homes designated as Beecher Historical Sites
- Oct 3 - The Board has begun reviewing the compensation for the new Board, who will be elected in April of 2017 and take office in May of 2017.
- The Road District ordered a new 2017 Mack truck. The new truck will be set up with a 13’ dump body and front and wing snow plows. The truck will take the place of a 1985 Mack, which is no longer suitable for plowing but will be kept for light duty applications.

Washington Township would like to THANK all of our businesses that advertise in our newsletter. Please patronize our advertisers as they have shown a commitment to support your Township!!

EARLY VOTING HOURS
October 24 - November 4
MONDAY - FRIDAY
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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 Forest Preserve District
 OF WILL COUNTY

Washington Township Senior News

Senior Holiday Dinner Date Change

Please note that the Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert has been rescheduled for December 13. Mark your calendars for one of our most popular events.



Washington Township Offers Local Dial-a-Ride Service

The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service is now 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.



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

The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service operates every Wednesday 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 Wednesday 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.

Important dates for our Seniors:

November 16 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch "The Jungle Book". Refreshments will be served!

December 13 - 6:30 pm

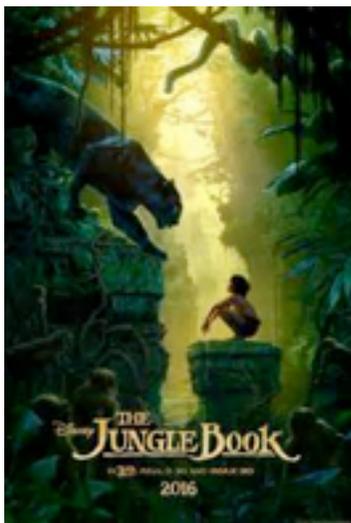
Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert at the Beecher Amvet Hall. A free dinner followed by a holiday concert.

January - 1:30 PM

Senior MOVIE MATINEE - . Refreshments will be served!

March 2015 (date to be determined)

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



SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT

“The Jungle Book (2016)”

This Disney’s classic is bigger & better than ever.

November 16, 2016 @ 6:30 PM

Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road
Beecher

Coffee and dessert will be served during a brief intermission.

Washington Township Senior News

“Sounds of the Season” Senior Bus Trip Planned

Washington Township is planning a senior bus trip to see the “Sounds of the Season” holiday concert at Olivet Nazarene University on December 9 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.

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.

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Brett Grandon, PT
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(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

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