

Community Blood Drive & Wellness Event on October 28

Through the combined efforts of the Beecher Fire Protection District, Beecher Lions Club and Washington Township, a Community Blood Drive and Wellness Event has been scheduled for October 28 from 8 am to 2 pm at the Beecher Fire Department located at 711 Penfield Street.

Along with the blood drive, there will be free blood pressure checks, and the Illinois' Lions Hearing & Retinal Mobile Screening Unit will be on site from 9 am - noon. Several local health care and service groups are also attending the event to discuss their services and programs. Currently the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Catholic Charities, CASA of Will County, Franciscan Alliance, Harbor House, The Kicking It Back Center and Your Senior Concierge have all committed to the event and we are working on more.

The event came together when the Fire District decided to host the blood drive, which was hosted by the Beecher Women's Club for many years, and contacted the township, and the idea of a complete "wellness" event was discussed. The Lion's Club was then contacted, and the idea further expanded.

The schedule is as follows:

- 8 am 2 pm / Blood Drive (Schedule on line at "<u>vitalant.org</u>" or walk-ins are welcome).
- 9am Noon / Lions Hearing & Retinal Screening Mobile Unit (First come first serve)
- 9am 2 pm / Wellness Event (Healthcare and Service Groups onsite!)

Lions Club Hearing & Retinal Mobile Unit at Wellness Event

Why Should I Consider a Hearing and Retinal Screening? First of all, this is a FREE Service provided by the Lions Club.

Secondly, hearing loss is one of the most chronic disabilities in the United States. There are nearly 720,000 people with impaired hearing in Illinois alone. Of these 106,000 are deaf and 26,000 of these are deaf before the age of 19. The Lions Club of Illinois sponsor FREE screenings every year for persons over 18 or older and minors 10-17 years old with parental consent, in communities all over the state.

The quality of life for people with retinal disorders, such as macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy is dramatically impacted. Since early detection of such disorders is critical, persons 55 or older are encouraged to take advantage of this FREE retinal screening.

Persons wishing to join the Lions on their fight against the effects of vision and hearing loss are encouraged to contact the Beecher Lions Club at beecherlionsevents@gmail.com.



Hello Friends and Neighbors from Supervisor Mike Stanula...

Of course, this summer has slipped away from us and here we are right in the midst of the fall season. Truly this is a wonderful time of year (unless you're a Bears or White Sox fan). This is also harvest season and even though our community is growing and progressing every year we are still considered, by many, as a farming community. This newsletter article will be directed mainly to the Farmer but as a farming community I think we should all be aware. Did you know that agriculture is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States, 368 farmers and agricultural workers died from work-related injury in 2020 alone? Each day, agricultural workers experience 100 non-fatal lost-work-time injuries. Agriculture is different from many industries in that it can present hazards to people not actively involved in the industry, such as family members living on the farm and visitors. Hazards may also exist for emergency medical services personnel and other health care professionals as they provide assistance and care to victims of farm accidents.

Health risks to farm workers include:

- Exposure to farm chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers.
- Exposure to high levels of dust, which can contain mold and bacteria.
- Falls from ladders, farm equipment, grain bins or other heights.
- Exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun, which can cause skin cancer.
- Exposure to loud noises from machinery and equipment, which can cause hearing loss.
- Risk of heatstroke, frostbite or hypothermia from working outside in extreme conditions
- Injuries from working with livestock
- Stress from environmental factors such as droughts and floods

Injuries to children can also occur while living, working or just visiting a farm. Everyday about 33 children are injured in agriculture-related accidents.

There are programs and agencies available to assist the Farm Community to develop safety measures to help protect themselves and their workers. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) Agricultural Operations and the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety are two such resource agencies. If you are friends with a farmer or the neighbor of a farmer keep them in your thoughts and prayers. If you are a farmer thank you and be safe out there, we need each and every one of you.

Because it's one of the things that make Beecher a Great place to be!

Washington Township Center Roof Project Update

As reported in the spring, the Washington Township Center was in need of a new roof over the township's 5,000 square foot office space.

The current roof is comprised of metal roofing installed directly over metal roof supports. Over time, the metal roof has expanded and contracted and has started to leak in various areas. The Board originally decided to replace the metal roof with a shingled roof, which was then estimated to be around \$55,000 and requested bids for the project. During the contractor's inspection process, it was discovered that the roof would need additional metal supports to properly secure the plywood decking and the bids all came in well over \$100,000.

The Board rejected the bids and after careful research, the board decided to request bids to utilize a silicone coating to seal the roof. The silicone coating is considered to be an excellent alternative to shingles and comes with a 20-year warranty. The board rebid the project and the bid was awarded to JF Chiattello (Dyer, IN) in the amount of \$44,372.00.

After some minor tuck-pointing work was completed, Chiattello is now scheduled to complete the roof in October as long as no other issues arise during the project.



Beecher Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

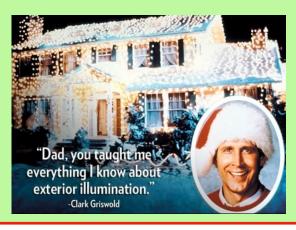
Do you enjoy decorating for the holidays? If so, the Village of Beecher will be holding a holiday lighting contest for all residents and businesses within the Beecher School District!

The ten "Best" decorated <u>outdoor</u> holiday displays will be awarded a prize of \$50 and a sign to display in front of their property indicating you're a winner! Additionally, the winners will be recognized on the Village's social media platforms.

Applications will soon be available at the Beecher Village Hall or online at www.villageofbeecher.org. Simply complete the form and email it to the village at clerk@villageofbeecher.org or fax it to 708-946-3764. Applications are due to the village by NOON on December 1.

A team of judges will visit the applicant's home or business during the first weekend in December and the winners will be announced on Monday, December 4th. Please note that winners will not be "ranked".

Show off your holiday spirit, have fun and maybe create a traffic jam in the neighborhood. (Just kidding!)









TENTATIVE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

October 31

➤ Halloween in the Park —
6:30 p.m. at Firemen's Park.
Presented by the Beecher Lions
Club

November 26

- → Holiday Kids Movie 1 p.m. at Beecher Community Hall. Presented by Washington Township & Beecher Lions Club.
- ➤ Light Parade 5 p.m. Watch for more details! Presented by the Village of Beecher
- Tree Lighting − 5-7 p.m. in Firemen's Park. Presented by the Village of Beecher

December3

 Breakfast with Santa - 8am -Noon - at the Beecher Amvet Hall. Presented by the Beecher Lions Club

December 12

─ Washington Township Senior Holiday Dinner - 5:30 p.m. at Beecher Amvet Hall

December 13

→ Holiday Movie Music presentation - 7 p.m. at the Beecher Community Library

December 24

Beecher Fire District Santa Ride
(to be held in the evening)

(The Beecher Community Library typically holds various recurring holiday craft activities and story times so please check with them for more details.)

Greetings From Assessor Patricia Peters...

The 2023 assessments have been finalized and submitted to the Will County Supervisor of Assessments Office to be equalized for the quadrennial reassessment year. This quadrennial assessment year ensures that properties are at or near the 33 1/3% of market value required by state statue and a Notice of Revised Assessment were sent out in August. So what does this all mean?

What is the Assessed Value?

The assessed value of a property is the dollar value assigned to calculate property taxes. This value is based on what your property would sell for in a free market with a willing seller and an able buyer. The assessed value usually lags in comparison to the current day market since the valuations are adjusted based on the prior three years of sales.

What Determines the Assessed Value?

The Assessor looks at information about the property and neighborhood, while comparing sales and equity, to determine the assessed value. There are many factors that could raise and lower the value of a property in each area. These factors include current market conditions, difference in amenities, neighborhood, size, and quality level are some that the assessor deems important to place an accurate value.

What Do You Think the Assessed Value of Your Home Should Be?

Let's say you feel your home is worth 150,000. You would multiply 150,000 by .3333 to determine the assessed value. 150,000 X .3333 = 49,995 is the assessed value.

What if I Disagree with the Assessed Value?

If you receive your notice and you feel that your property was not assessed accurately, there are some steps you can take to appeal the assessment.

First, carefully review the property characteristics are correct, including the size, fixture count, and all other factors that determined your assessment. If you see errors, contact us. Second, contact our office by phone or email. Having comparable properties that you feel show your value is too high would be very beneficial. I always say, "Whatever makes you feel your value is too high, use that information". Please know, with 6,400 parcels receiving notice, we will do our best to get back to you as soon as we possibly can.

Understanding the assessed value of your property is the starting point for your portion of the tax burden, it is important to have the assessment placed be fair. I am hopeful everyone will investigate their assessment, contact our office if needed, and feel that when the taxing bodies apply the tax rate, you know you are paying your fair share of the tax bill burden.

So What Happens Next?

Because we are at the end of the 2023 quadrennial reassessment year, our office will be busy the remainder of the year to fulfill the duty of reviewing every property in our township. Our most common approach being the market. This helps ensure that properties are at or near the 33 1/3% of market value required by state statue. We often rely on mass appraisal developing values for neighborhoods based on one of the three approaches to determine value-cost, market, or income. However, we will also utilize the following approaches:

- 1. Assessor and staff will be reviewing the property simply by driving by, arial views, or making a formal visit.
- 2. Neighborhood studies for the trending increase/decrease in sales to include a reason for change in any given neighborhood. There are many neighborhoods that have been reassessed over the last few years. At this time, we can adjust specific properties that need additional adjustments outside of their neighborhood.
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Continued on next page....

From Assessor Patricia Peters...continued

Finally, you are entitled to receive a notice to inform you of the current market value of your home as well as the percent of change in the assessment from the prior year. This publication also serves as a notice to taxpayers that they have 30 days to challenge their assessments. The assessment notices will be mailed the first week of August. I will be providing more information as that time nears.

Keep in mind the increase in the market over the last few years. When thinking of that and ALL assessments increasing, you likely will see a decrease in the tax rate. The percent of change to the assessment does not declare a percent of change for the property tax bill.

Patricia Peters, Assessor 708-231-1175

"Real estate cannot be lost or stolen, nor can it be carried away. Purchased with common sense, paid for in full, and managed with reasonable care, it is about the safest investment in the world" ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

Catholic Charities Satellite Office Now Open in Washington Township

Catholic Charities has opened a satellite office at the Washington Township Center. A representative is onsite on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 8 AM to Noon. **The office can be busy, so appointments are recommended!**

Catholic Charities offers aging services for older adults and those with disabilities that are designed to encourage and support independence while protecting the participant's dignity. Catholic Charities works collaboratively with many organizations to accomplish this goal. For more information, please call our office at **708-946-2026**.

More information regarding the many services of Catholic Charities can be found at their website: **catholiccharitiesjoliet.org**

Township Board Holds the Line on Taxes

The Washington Township Board continues to hold the line when it comes to tax increases. For the eighth consecutive year, there will be no increase in the Washington Township Corporate tax levy. Back in 2017, the Board realized that the additional funds being used to pay off the Washington Township Center (WTC), which was built in 2001 and paid off in 2021, would be available for future maintenance of the building. To date these funds have been used for updating the computers, replacing the carpeting, repaving the parking lot, refreshing the landscaping and many other items. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the roof on the WTC is being repaired in October.

Also in 2017, the Board began diverting a portion of the township levy to the Community Building levy and transferred a total of nearly \$30,000 to that fund over the next several years. The additional funding allowed the Community Building Board to take care of many much-needed repairs and upgrades including a new roof, paint, refinishing the wood floors, and an ADA compliant incline platform lift was installed to allow handicap access to all levels of the building. The hall continues to be rented nearly every weekend for many private events.

The Road District has only requested minimal levy increases generally less then 3% to keep up with inflation and rising material costs associated with road repairs and upgrades. The township has 72 miles of roads to maintain, and rising costs continue to outpace the increases. However, this year the Road District scheduled and resurfaced (tar and chip) over 10 miles of township roads.

As you can see the Township and Road District are both acutely aware of the tax burdens that all of us face and are working diligently to hold the line on tax increases. As a matter of reference, the township and the road district, only make up approximately, 5.5% of your total tax bill.

Working Together - Behind the Scenes

What makes Beecher and Washington Township so unique? In a word, cooperation. The township and village have always worked extremely well together and all you need do is look back to 2000 to understand the strength of that partnership.

As the township, and especially the village were going through unprecedented growth during the early 2000's, most of the taxing districts were having the same issue, limited infrastructure to support the growth. The Road District and the Beecher Public Works needed more space. The school district was building a new junior high and needed room for their buses and maintenance shop. The village and police department were outgrowing their building and even adequate meeting room space was difficult to find. Additionally, there was no place to properly store road salt along with some other issues.

Recognizing an opportunity, the Village of Beecher, Washington Township and the Beecher School District sat down and devised a plan to help out everyone. The village had land, the township and school district had borrowing power, and an Intergovernmental Agreement was signed to build the Washington Township Center. At approximately 20,000 square feet, the center included 5000 square feet of office space for the township and a meeting room big enough for all entities to use. The Road District received 9,000 square feet of garage and shop space and the west end of the building, owned by the school district, houses a maintenance office and shop for the school's transportation group, along with plenty of bus parking on the west side of the building. The facility also includes a 60' wash bay. A 1200-ton salt dome was then built a few years later that is still shared by the village and township to this day. Finally, a fuel system was later added that all entities use to fuel vehicles, including the Beecher Police and Beecher Fire Protection District. This cooperation helped everyone as the village then purchased the Road Districts old garage for Public Works. Everybody won, especially the taxpayers.

So why is something that happened over 20-years ago being written about in 2023? Because that cooperation continues to this day. The Village created the Beecher EMA, Beecher Youth Commission, 4th of July Commission and the Concert in the Park series, among other programs. All of these services / events are utilized by all township residents! The township in turn, continually offers yearly sponsorships to support many of these activities. A verbal agreement years ago led to the village offering "youth programs" and the township offering "senior programs".

The ads in this newsletter are solicited by the village and split between the village and township to help keep the cost of both the villages and township's newsletters down to a minimum and advertisers get full coverage of the township. Important information and community events are shared in both newsletters so everyone with a Beecher address has access to what is happening in their community.

The village invites all entities to various community meetings and keeps everyone well informed. The township also works with the Beecher Police and Beecher Fire District to offer safety programs to our seniors. The fire district is routinely offered space in the township newsletter if they wish to relay important topics and is always willing to work with the township. And the cooperation goes on and on!

Are we perfect, unfortunately no, no one is, however, the collaboration of your local entities helps make Beecher and Washington Township a special place to live.

Will County Household Waste & Electronics Recycling Event Coming Soon to Washington Township!

Will County Green will be hosting a <u>Household Waste & Electronics Recycling Event</u> at the Washington Township Center in the spring of 2024! We will post more details on our website and Facebook page when we receive final information.

Washington Township Senior News

Senior Concert Event - "A Tribute to Sinatra"

On October 21, Washington Township is presenting "A Tribute to Sinatra" show at the Beecher Amvet Hall. Tribute artist Jim Bulanda, a very popular performer in the Chicagoland area, will be performing songs from Sinatra and other notable performers during his 2-hour show. The concert starts at 6 pm and the doors will open at 5:15 pm. The show is open to all Washington Township seniors (Over 55).

Light refreshments will be served, and a cash bar will be available from the Amvets Lounge. Seating is first-come first-serve for the event and reservations are not required.

16th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner

On December 12 at 5:30 pm, Washington Township will be sponsoring a free holiday dinner at the Beecher Amvet Hall. We are thrilled to have members of the Beecher Part-Time players singing Christmas music after dinner this year! This is one of our biggest events and you don't want to miss it! 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 and hear the "Sounds of the Season" holiday concert at Olivet Nazarene University in early December. Entry to the concert is \$10 per person 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 tickets, please call the Washington Township office at (708) 946-2026 Ext. 2 between the hours of 9am - 3pm.

Tickets are limited!

Pizza & Movie Matinee!

On Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 12:30 pm, we will celebrate the new year with a "Pizza & Movie Matinee". The township will provide pizza prior to the start of our movie and of course, dessert. Seating is limited so please call our office at 708-946-2026 to reserve a spot.

In case of inclimate weather, (blizzard, heavy snow or poor driving conditions) the movie will be held on January 24.

Important dates for our Seniors:

October 21 - 6:00 PM

"A Tribute to Sinatra" @ Beecher Amvet Hall

October 28 - 9 AM - 2 PM

Community Blood Drive & Wellness Event @ Beecher Fire Department

November 15 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night Refreshments will be served!

December 12 - 5:30 pm

Senior Holiday Dinner at the Beecher Amvet Hall - A free dinner followed by a holiday music

January 17, 2024-12:30 PM

Senior PIZZA & MOVIE MATINEE - Refreshments will be served!

Cut me out and put me on the fridge!



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

John C Dean Memorial Theatre Dedication Announced!

When the Village of Beecher started making plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Beecher in 1970, they hired a young man from Arkansas to coordinate the Centennial Celebration.

Little did they know the impact that young man would have on the village and community over the next several decades. That young man was John Dean. John fell in love with Beecher (as well as his soon-to-be wife, Gwen) and he made Beecher his home. Most of Beecher grew to know John through his work at Hack Funeral Home, being the first paramedic for the Beecher Fire Department or through his frequent visits to the area coffee shops. They also grew to know John through his involvement in many organizations such as the Lion's Club, Beecher Chamber of Commerce, 4th of July Commission and Zion Lutheran Church.



John Dean

John never lost his love for theater and was one of the founding members of the Beecher Part-time Players, directing countless plays, musicals and productions over the years. His enthusiasm and encouragement inspired generations of local residents to display and expand their singing, acting and comedic talents, providing entertainment and laughter to the community for over 40 years.

Sadly, we lost John to cancer in 2019. But the impact and influence of his contagiously upbeat and positive character continues. In honor of John and all that he has done for the community and for the Beecher Part-time Players specifically, the Washington Township Community Hall Board of Managers and the Beecher Part-time Players are pleased to announce that on October 29th, the upstairs of the Community Hall will be dedicated as the John C. Dean Memorial Theater.

We invite the public to join us for an **Open House** from 2-5 pm to see the theater and to share stories and memories with John's family and friends. There will be a dedication ceremony at 3 pm to unveil a memorial plaque and celebrate the lasting impression John has had on the community. Light refreshments will be served. We hope you will be able to join us!



Your Township Officials:

- Supervisor Mike Stanula
- Clerk Joe Burgess
- **Assessor Pat Peters**
- **Highway Commissioner** Mike Smith

Trustees

- **Tracy Heldt**
- **Mark Herlitz**
- **George Obradovich**
- **Teresa Peterson**

Community Building Board

- Stacy Mazurek
- Teresa Peterson
- **Dan Waterman**

New Residential Knox Box Program from the Beecher Fire Protection District

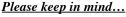
Residential Knox Box Loaner Program!



The Beecher Fire Protection District has started a residential Knox HomeBox program available to residents with special needs. A Knox HomeBox is a rapid-entry system designed to provide secure emergency access to a home or property to those living alone or with a history of medical or mobility issues.

How the Program Works

When a fire breaks out or there is a medical emergency, a Knox HomeBox allows the Fire District to gain immediate access to the home without forced entry damage or delay. The boxes are a metal box with a door hanger attached and are meant to be placed over the top of the resident's front entry door. Inside the box, a key to the residence is securely placed for access by the Beecher Fire Protection District.



- The Knox HomeBox will remain the property of the Beecher Fire Protection District and is only loaned to residents for use at the address listed on the application
- The Knox HomeBox shall be hung on the front door and participants are to provide the Fire District with a key to the door
- Should the resident ever change the door locks, it is the resident's responsibility to notify the Fire Department and provide the Beecher Fire Protection District with the new door key
- The loaner Knox HomeBox shall be returned to the Beecher Fire Protection District when the original participant no longer resides at the property address or when they no longer have use for the box

For information on obtaining a loaner Knox HomeBox through the Beecher Fire Protection District or to purchase a Knox HomeBox of your own, please call (708) 946-6585.

Eligibility Requirements

In order to be deemed eligible and loaned a Knox HomeBox from the Beecher Fire Protection District a person must:

- Reside within the boundaries of the Beecher Fire Protection District.
- Have an existing medical or physical condition (short-term or long-term) that could render them unable to open a locked door in the case of an emergency (i.e. individuals recuperating from a hospital stay or awaiting placement in an assisted living or skilled nursing facility).
- Fill out a Residential Knox HomeBox Program application and follow the program rules.
- Sign the Knox HomeBox loaner application and abide by the agreement.

Daylight Saving ends on Sunday, November 5th. Move your clocks back one hour and change your SMOKE and / or CO detector batteries!



KnoxBox

TOWNSHIP MEETING INFO

The Washington Township Board meets on the FIRST Monday of every month (except on holidays) at the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road.

All meetings start at 7 pm and are open to the public and public commentary is welcome.

Please call Supervisor Mike Stanula at 946-2026 if you need assistance. Visit us at: www.washingtontownshipil.com

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. Please call Paul Goldrick at (708) 516-2594 for additional details or if you need assistance. Many thanks to the volunteers who assist at the pantry!

The Washington Township Food pantry works closely with Alicia's House and we want to thank them for their assistance!

Washington Township Free Senior Event



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 our community! Advertising helps keep the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter to a minimum!













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