WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP 2024 FALL NEWSLETTER



Beecher Community Calendar Phone App Now Available

What's going on in Beecher / Washington Township this week? That question can now be answered by simply checking your phone. The Township and Beecher Fire Protection District recognized that there was no single source to find out what community activities were taking place during any given week without checking multiple websites. CLR Digital Solutions, located in Frankfort, IL was contacted and the Beecher Community Calendar app was created!

The free phone application stays current by "pointing" to local websites and pull their events directly from their website calendar. The app currently is pulling information from Washington Township, the Beecher Fire Protection District, Beecher Library and the Beecher School District. The app also features a "Submit Event" feature for any other local non-profit, church and business to submit a "community event" that can be added to the calendar.

Community events are currently defined as an event that would be suitable for all ages to attend and/ or senior and youth only events. This would include community dinners (Church dinners, Fish Frys, Chili Contest, etc.), Health Events, Concerts, Farmers Markets, Plays, Special Presentations, Car Shows and many other programs. Private parties, religious services times and dates and bar events will not be accepted.

Do you have kids in school? The app includes School Board meetings and a sports calendar, along with early dismissals, "no school" days, PTO meetings and other school activities. If it's on the school calendar, it's on the app.



The app can also be utilized to help organizations who are planning events verify there isn't an event scheduled for the same day or time.

So far, the calendar has been utilized by the Village of Beecher, Beecher-Part Time Players, Buddys Drive-In, Golden Brew, Peace Lutheran Church, Faith Church, Beecher Chamber of Commerce, Beecher Amvets, Beecher Lions Club, the Beecher Youth Commission and others.

The app can be used on all phones and tablets and is available at the Apple App Store or Google Apps. The app is also perfect for those who don't use social media (Facebook) but still want an easy way to see what's happening in Washington Township / Beecher!

Early Voting at the Washington Township Center starts on October 21! See Page 2 for details.

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. Please read through this issue of your Townships Fall newsletter where you will find facts and events that you and your family would surely enjoy. We are looking into things that will bring us closer together, encourage health and happiness and foster community spirit and pride.

Friends, we as individuals are all different but we are also very much the same. We are not only members of a local community but also, we are Americans and despite cultural backgrounds and different political affiliations we share many things in common. We all celebrate holidays as one, look into the sky in awe at fireworks, believe in freedom of speech and freedom of religion, have Community pride and the love of this Country. We as American Citizens have the right to vote. Did you know that the four Amendments to the Constitution, 15th, 19th, 24th and 28th dating all the way back to 1870, all pertain to your right to vote. This country was founded and has fought for our right to vote, yet that right, the right that was drafted into the Amendments to the Constitution, has become an inconvenience, a complacent chore. Come this November we once again need to exercise our right to vote. Yes, I know that whoever gets elected and for whatever office, there will be people who are not happy with the outcome. But what is worse, some people do not vote believing that their vote "does not matter anyway so why bother".

Your vote does matter. Your vote today will create changes tomorrow. Please exercise your Constitutional right to VOTE. Elections are Tuesday November 5th, if you cannot find time to vote on that day, there is vote by mail, if that doesn't appeal to you, we have early voting at the Township building. Early voting starts October 21st - November 1st / Monday - Friday from 9am to 3pm and Saturday October 26th from 9am-noon. October 28 and 29 from 9am to 5pm. So do something historic this November 5th and please vote. Because it's one of the things that make Beecher a Great place to be!

Township Offers Early Voting for Upcoming Elections

The 2024 General Election will be held on

November 5. 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.

Voting will be held at the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher, on Monday through Friday from October 21 through November 1. All residents of Washington Township (Beecher) are eligible to vote at our site. The process is quick and 100% secure.

Early Voting Hours!

Oct 21 (Mon) - 9 am - 3 pm

Oct 22 (Tue) - 9 am - 3 pm

Oct 23 (Wed) - 9 am - 3 pm

Oct 24 (Thu) - 9 am - 3 pm

Oct 25 (Fri) - 9 am - 3 pm

Oct 26 (Sat) - 9 am - Noon

Oct 28 (Mon) - 9 am - 5 pm

Oct 29 (Tue) - 9 am - 5 pm

Oct 30 (Wed) - 9 am - 3 pm

Oct 31 (Thu) - 9 am - 3 pm

Nov 1 (Fri) - 9 am - 3 pm

NOTE: The schedule is on the Beecher Community Calendar APP!



Washington Township Food Pantry Asking for Help

The Washington Township Food Pantry was established in 2009. During that time the pantry has served 1000's of people and has always been available to help because of our dedicated volunteers. So far in 2024, the pantry has distributed over 25,000 pounds of food and are helping on average, 31 families every month, unfortunately there is still a great need in our community.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, the food pantry is planning on suppling a holiday breakfast and dinner to those people in need. We are fortunate that we will have turkeys, eggs, cranberries and canned vegetables available, however, we are asking for canned fruit (peaches, mixed, etc.), butter, instant potatoes, bread (please bring on 11/19) and frozen orange juice. If you are willing to donate any of these items, please bring them to the Washington Township Center no later than November 19. All we ask is that these items have not reached their expiration date.



The Food Pantry also accepts cash donation that will be used to purchase items as necessary. Cash donations can be dropped off at the Washington Township Center during regular business hours and we will provide you with a receipt.

Township Board Approves New LED Road Sign

In July the Township Board began a discussion to update the original Washington Township manual message board to a LED electronic sign board. Supervisor Stanula began the quote process and after inspecting the brickwork, it was determined that the 22-year-old brick work surrounding the message board would need to be completely replaced. The board considered many design options for the sign while also trying to stay within the \$25,000 that was allocated to replace the message board. Quotes were received to purchase a LED Think Board and were well below the budget, however,

replacing the brickwork was an added cost.

The Board contracted Custom Brick and Stone from Peotone to build the new brick frame and approved a quote from All-Right Sign to purchase and install a 3' x 6' "ThinkSign" electronic message center after the brick frame has been constructed. The project will be approximately \$4000 over budget; however, the overage will not affect the township's overall yearly budget. The new electronic sign will allow township staff to update the sign



remotely and they will be able to add several messages that will scroll continuously. The new sign is expected to be completed in November.

Local community activities will then be accepted and added to the message board to help promote local activities.

Daylight Saving ends on Sunday, November 6th. Move your clocks back one hour and change your SMOKE and / or CO detector batteries!





Washington Township Senior News

17th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner

On December 10 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 on Friday, December 6 at 7 PM. Entry to the concert is \$5 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 and includes transportation! Sign up today!**

SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT SCHEDULE



"Twisters" (2024)

Starring Glen Powell & Daisy Edgar-Jones!

November 20, 2024 @ 6:30 PM

The 2024 version does NOT disappoint!

Washington Township Center Refreshments will be served. **Bring a friend!**

2025 Pizza & Movie Matinee!

On Wednesday, January 15, 2025 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 22.

Important dates for our Seniors:

November 20 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night "Twisters"! Refreshments will be served!

December 6 - 7 pm

Senior Bus Trip - "Sounds of the Season" concert at Olivet Nazarene University.

December 10 - 5:30 pm

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

January 15, 2025-12:30 PM

Senior PIZZA & MOVIE MATINEE - Refreshments will be served!

Cut me out and put me on the fridge!



Seniors, do you need a ride within Washington Township?

The Washington Township Dial-A-Ride bus is now running Monday & Thursday between 9 am - 3pm!

Call our office at (708) 946-2026 for more information.

From Assessor Patricia Peters: Dear Washington Township Property Owners

If you received a 2024 Assessment Notice, the increased % will be based on a combination of the reason for change (example-some type of new construction, etc.) as well as the county multiplier, which was applied to all residential properties throughout Washington Township. Due to our continued higher real estate market values each year, the 2024 property assessments are increasing based on the State of Illinois Department of Revenue Sales Ratio Study.

Our friends and neighbors here in Washington Township have sold their residential lands and homes at a higher sales price each year for the past several years and this is what the Illinois Department of Revenue uses to determine assessment changes each year. This Sales Study projects an annual equalization factor that requires assessments to either increase or decrease. For example: If a residential property's estimated market value is \$600,000, it is assessed at .3333 of that value of \$200,000. Yet, if that \$200,000 assessed property ends up selling for \$675,000, that is \$75,000 over the estimated assessed value of \$600,000. The assessment level for this sale is .30 (200,000/675,000) below the State of Illinois mandated median assessment level of .3333 percent of the market value. In the Sales Ratio Study, all of the Market Sales ratios are ranked from low to high, and the middle position of the ranking is used to determine the new assessment year's equalization factor.

Washington Township is not unique in Will County. Most of the townships have received a significant equalization factor for 2024, since the factors are based on the last three years of sales. To roughly determine if your assessed value is too high, please review your tax bill. Once you have done that, take your total assessed value and multiply that amount by three. That will provide you a rough idea of your homes estimated market value based on your assessment. Is that market value less or more than what your home would sell for in today's market? Additional resources such as Zillow.com or Realtor.com can often provide you with a rough estimate of your home's current value as well.

If you feel the estimated market value is higher than what your home would sell for, please contact me at 708-231-1175 or email me at assessor@washingtontownshipil.com so we can discuss it further. The Assessor's office will often ask that you provide at least three good comparable homes nearby which are assessed lower than yours. You can determine much of this information by researching this online at willcountysoa.com. The Assessor's records are listed on this website for anyone to view them.

While I personally agree that taxes are too high in the Chicago area collar counties, the Assessor is similar to an Appraiser. The assessor <u>does not determine how much you are taxed</u>, the Assessor only values your property value based upon current market value guidelines set forth by the State of Illinois.

If you carefully review your tax bill, you will see how much you are paying to each of the taxing bodies listed on your bill. Those taxing bodies set their tax rate each year when they complete their "tax levies". Tax levies are due to the county by early December and any taxing body that levies OVER 5% is required to hold a Truth-in-Taxation Hearing. You can find these notices in the local paper and sometimes on the entity's website! Also, please check you are receiving all the exemptions you may be entitled to receive.

Thank you and I hope this information helps you to better understand the assessment process. Patricia Peters, Certified Illinois Assessment Officer of Washington Township.

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! Their advertising helps keep the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter to a minimum!

Beecher Holiday Lights Decorating Contest

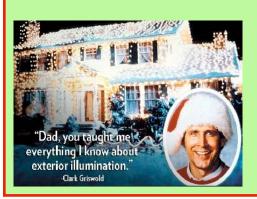
Do you enjoy decorating for the holidays? If so, the Village of Beecher will be holding a holiday lighting contest for all residents and businesses within the Beecher School District!

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. Be creative, pick a theme or show your style!!

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.

A team of judges will be visiting the applicant's home or business in early December and the winners will be announced shortly there after. Please note that winners will not be "ranked".

Last year we had nearly 40 beautifully decorated houses in the contest! Show off your holiday spirit, have fun and maybe create a traffic jam in the neighborhood. (Just kidding!)











TENTATIVE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

October 26

Trunk or Treat −
 11 am - 1 pm at Peace Lutheran
 Church. Presented by Peace
 Lutheran.

October 31

Malloween in the Park – 6:30 p.m. at Firemen's Park. Free hot dogs and "pumpkin smash"! Presented by the Beecher Lions Club.

December 1

- ~ Pop-up Christmas Market 1pm 3:30pm @Peace Lutheran
- Light Parade 5 p.m. Watch for more details! Presented by the Village of Beecher. (Lineup at 4:45pm) Route: Begins at corner of Reed & Penfield; Reed north to Hodges; Hodges east to Woodward; Woodward south to Penfield; Penfield east to Fireman's Park.
- Santa Arrives at 5:15 pm -Santa's Workshop & Food Stand opens

December 8

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

December 10

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

December 24

New Season Series Series Series Series Series− (to be held in the evening)

to the station, contact us at (708) 946-6585 Ext 4009

Helpful Info from the Beecher Fire Protection District

The Beecher Fire Protection District is happy to offer medical information cards to all residents of the Fire Protection District. This is a program to better prepare our crews if we have to respond to an emergency for any individual within our district. If you have any questions or cannot make it

Medical emergencies can happen anytime. When they do, there is often confusion and panic. Paramedics arrive on the scene with no information about the person in need. Seconds count – they can make the difference between life and death. Does the patient have prior medical conditions? Allergies? What medications are they taking? Who do they want us to call? This resource puts these answers at their fingertips. It allows first responders to immediately begin the best possible treatment, notify loved ones, and pass this vital data on to awaiting physicians at the emergency room. The best place to keep these are on your refrigerator so they are easily seen by our paramedics.



Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors Can Save Your Life!

Carbon Monoxide, also referred to as CO, is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless gas. It is produced when any fossil fuel, such as; propane, natural gas, coal, oil, or gasoline is burned, and a buildup is caused by an insufficient oxygen supply. Overexposure to CO can cause CO poisoning, which can lead to serious illness, even death.



As of January 1, 2007, CO detectors are required to be installed within 15 feet of all sleeping rooms of all dwelling units. This may require multiple detectors for your home or apartment. This applies to single-family homes, duplexes, townhouses, apartments, hotels, and motels.

Types

There are various types of detectors that can be used: battery powered, plug-in with battery backup, and direct-wired in the building electric system with battery back-up. There are some combination smoke detectors that may be used. Please consult the product literature or manufacturer for compatibility with existing detectors.

Installation

The homeowner is responsible for the installation of the detector. If you occupy a rental unit, the installation is the landlord's responsibility. The state of Illinois Public Act 094-0741 requires that CO detectors be installed and there are penalties in the act for noncompliance. A copy of the act is available on the Illinois General Assembly. If you have questions or need assistance we are happy to help, just contact us.

Placement

Place detectors nearest to bedrooms as possible since you are most vulnerable to CO poisoning while sleeping. If your bedrooms are in different parts of the house, place separate detectors near each bedroom area.

React

Take immediate action if your CO detector sounds or if you have headaches, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and/or confusion. Get fresh air immediately. Call 911 and make sure everyone moves outdoors into fresh air. Do not reenter the building until the fire department has inspected the building and its declared safe.

Please contact the Beecher Fire Protection District at (708) 946-6585 with any questions.

Its 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 harvest season. Farming equipment has become much larger over the years and according to the National Safety Council, approximately 33% 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.
- 2. Watch for Slow-Moving-Vehicle (SMV) signs.
- 3. Watch for hand signals.
- 4. Pass farm equipment cautiously.
- 5. Watch for flashing amber lights.
- 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!



We run this EVERY fall to ensure we have a SAFE harvest season for everyone sharing our roads!!



Washington Township Road District News

The Washington Township Road District has made great progress in road improvements over the last 18 months. Starting with the summer of 2023 and including this year, Highway Commissioner Mike Smith and his crew have tar & chipped 20 miles of township roads. There were also 2.5 miles of new asphalt put down. The necessary repairs and road preparations for this road work included hauling and spreading 25,000 tons of stone. With over 70 miles of roads in the township, Smith and crew were able to address 31% of our roads!

These repairs can be attributed to good planning, favorable weather and joining forces with other local townships to maximize equipment and labor. This practice has been beneficial for all the involved townships as it enables all of them to get more accomplished each summer.

There were also multiple culverts replaced and many roadside ditches were cleaned to improve water flow away from the roads. The department has recently begun the final mowing of roadside ditches this fall to ensure snow doesn't pile up and drift across roads this winter.

Congratulations to Commissioner Mike Smith and his dedicated Crew for a job well done!

Catholic Charities Satellite Office Open in Washington Township

A representative is onsite on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 8 AM to Noon. 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**



VOIL

Washington Township Medical Closet

Washington Township residents can take advantage of the township's Medical Closet for many of their "short term" medical equipment needs. The medical closet typically has wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, and shower chairs in inventory and available for checkout. There is no cost to residents to borrow items and we simply ask that all items be returned clean when they are no longer needed.

Please call our office at (708) 946-2026 to make arrangements to drop-off or check out equipment.

Washington Township Recycle Event a Huge Success

Over 300 people from 18 surrounding communities attended the May 11 recycle event sponsored by Washington Township and Will County Green. Nearly 17,000 pounds of recycling was collected and of this total, televisions made up 31% of the total weight.

Please note that electronics recycling is always available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 208 E. Main Street in Peotone from 5 pm - 7 pm (lines will be cutoff at 7pm).

There is a limit of TWO Televisions per vehicle and an ID Required to prove you are a Will County resident.

Community Building News

The Board of Managers for the Washington Township Community Hall have been working on several projects to maintain and update the Hall. The building was completed in 1929 and after 95 years, the foundation has developed some cracks which has caused seepage into the kitchen area, not only making a mess, but causing damage to the floor tiles. We will soon have the cracks repaired, which should prevent further issues.

Once the seepage issue has been corrected, we are also working on plans to replace the flooring in both the kitchen and main room. Over the years the floor has become uneven in spots and will need to be adjusted as well as new tiles being installed. We hope to have this completed by the end of February 2025.

Another project we have started is installing a sign in front of the Hall. As new residents are moving into the community that are not familiar with Beecher, we realized that there is no indication of what the Hall is or what activities may be going on at the Hall throughout the year. Plans are being made to install a lighted sign indicating the building as the Washington Township Community Hall, which also houses the John C Dean Memorial Theater. The planning has just started, so we don't have a completion date set but hope to have it completed before the winter.

After many years of service to the Community Hall, Kellie Karstensen has stepped down as custodian. However, she will continue to coordinate scheduling and rentals. We want to thank Kellie for all her dedication and hard work and are excited she will continue to be a part of the operations of the Hall! We are also excited to welcome our new Custodian, Kelly Golke, and look forward to working with her for many years.

The Hall continues to be accepting applications for rent from any Washington Township resident. It is a great location for birthday parties, baby showers, bridal showers, graduation parties and much more! The standard fee is \$125 per day per level. Weekends fill up quickly, so we encourage anyone interested in seeing the building or reserving a date to contact Kellie Karstensen, Community Hall Manager at 708-417-6403 to check availability and details. Contact information and the full Rental and Cleaning Deposit policies can also be found on the Washington Township website under "Township Community Bldg." at:

www.washingtontownshipil.com.

The Washington Township Community Hall Board of Managers (Dan Waterman, Teresa Peterson, Stacy Mazurek) want to thank the Beecher community for its continued support!

Your Township Officials:

Supervisor

Mike Stanula - (708) 231-1173 supervisor@washingtontowshipil.com

Clerk

Joe Burgess - (708) 231-1176 clerk@washingtontownshipil.com

Assessor

Patricia Peters - (708) 23I- 1175 assessor@washingtontownshipil.com

Highway Commissioner

Mike Smith - (708) 946-6459 commissioner@ washingtontownshipil.com

Trustees

Tracy Heldt
Mark Herlitz
George Obradovich
Teresa Peterson

Office Coordinator / General Assistance - (708) 231-1172

Tammy Hitzelburger

transportation@washingtontownshipil.com **OR**

ga@washingtontownshipil.com

Community Building Board of Managers

Stacy Mazurek

Teresa Peterson

Dan Waterman

Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Joe Burgess



Nominating Petitions for All Washington Township Elected Officials are Now Available

Nominating petitions for all Washington Township elected officials are now available. The four-year terms for the Washington Township Supervisor, Clerk, Assessor, Trustees (4), Highway Commissioner and Community Building Managers (3) will be voted upon during the Consolidated Election of 2025 to be held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. Anyone wishing to receive a nominating petition may contact Joseph Burgess, Washington Township Clerk at (708) 231-1176 or visit the Washington Township Center from Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The first day a nominating petition can be circulated is August 20, 2024. The filing period for nominating petitions is from November 12 to November 18, 2024. Petitions may be filed by mail or in person. The LAST day to file a petition in person at the Washington Township Center is November 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Please contact the Will County Clerk if you want to file at their office and for their office hours. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Washington Township Clerk, Will County Clerk OR the State Board of Elections or by visiting their website at www.elections.il.gov.

Joseph Burgess - Washington Township Clerk

Beecher Chamber of Commerce 6th Annual Lighting Up Dixie Highway

The Beecher Chamber of Commerce will be having their annual "Lighting Up Dixie Highway" again this year. Anyone can decorate a tree placed along Dixie Highway to honor a loved one and the top three decorated trees will be awarded cash prizes.

Note: Trees must be purchased to be eligible for the decorating contest and MUST be purchased by November 5th!

For more information please visit: Beecherchamber.org











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Home values are up and rates are coming down. Contact Wendy Hoekstra about a HELOC at (708) 946-2246.

Visit us online at www.firstcbt.bank.



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