



## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### Washington Township Center Celebrates 15 Years

#### *Vision, Creativity & Cooperation.*

Seventeen years ago four local taxing bodies all needed a solution to virtually the same problem, space. The Beecher School District ran out of space to house their buses, the Washington Township Road District ran out of room at their location, the Village of Beecher needed space for meetings and their Public Works equipment and Washington Township was growing and was looking for a place to call home and add services for their residents.



Washington Township Center

So how do you solve the problem and make it a win-win for all the entities looking to solve the same problem and minimize the tax burden on the residents? You get creative.

The late Paul Lohmann, who was Mayor of Beecher at the time and Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer started talking. The Village had recently received 7-acres of property from Shady Lawn Golf Course as part of a development agreement and although the land wasn't perfect for building as is, it was a great starting point. After numerous discussions, the idea was finally presented to the Village Board of Trustees, Washington Township Board and the Beecher School Board to level off the site and build a unique multi-jurisdictional complex that would become the Washington Township Center. All three Boards understood the vision and through their cooperation, a single facility with three distinct components would be built. A facility with over 12,000 square feet that included offices for Washington Township, ample garage and storage space for the Washington Township Road District plus a maintenance garage and parking for the Beecher School buses. The facility would also include a salt dome shared by the village and township and a wash bay shared by all of the entities. In return, the village also worked a deal to take ownership of the former Washington Township Highway Garage located in Beecher and unlimited use of the Meeting Room to hold their Board and Committee Meetings. A shared fuel card refueling station was also added, which included the Beecher Fire Protection District and Beecher Police Department.

The property now includes a Recycling Center for books, clothes, paper, glass, plastic, cardboard and aluminum for use by the entire community.

Dedicated 15-years ago, the facility still does what it was designed to do and after 15-years, the four entities still cooperate together in the best interest of the residents and taxpayers of Washington Township. Vision, creativity and cooperation, core values that sometimes get lost today, are still resonating in our great community.

**From Supervisor Mike Stanula...**

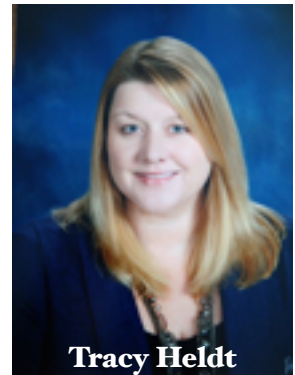
Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Welcome back to another edition of the Washington Township Newsletter. I look forward to spring and summer and am glad that winter is behind us. A few short notes ... how do we make our successful and popular Dial-a-Ride Service even better, by doubling it to twice a week! Call the Township for more information. By the time you read this our ever popular Spring Senior Breakfast will have taken place and I know that everyone enjoyed themselves. Also Saturday May 6th The Township will be hosting a Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Collection. Read thru our newsletter for more info. Many exciting things will be happening this season in your Township including; concerts, ballgames (White Sox only, sorry north-side fans) and movies. Check our website often for more info.

Finally another election cycle has come and gone and I am pleased to say that our entire Board has been re-elected. I know that our Team is humbled and appreciative of your support. We will continue to be good stewards of your tax dollars, preserve our established programs and events, fight to maintain our quality of life and welcome opportunities that will enhance our Township. Because Beecher is a Great place to be!

**Spot Light On: Trustee Tracy Heldt**

Tracy was appointed to the Board in December 2016 and was elected as a Trustee during the April election. Tracy grew up in Beecher, attending Beecher schools, then moved away to earn her bachelor’s degree in business marketing. She started her career in marketing for 6 years, and then moved into a successful sales career for the last 18 years. Tracy lived outside of Beecher for many years but moved back 13 years ago. Tracy says “Leaving the area, and coming back gives me a unique perspective. During this time since I have returned, I have watched many ups and downs in the area, and have also met lots of different people. I am fortunate to have old friends, new friends, and



**Tracy Heldt**

acquaintances who all keep me informed about different facets of the community both in town, and our adjacent rural area in Washington Township”.

Tracy served on her church council and was the former church treasurer. She has served on both charitable and fundraising committees in the Chicago area and Midwest region. One being the Two Ten Foundation with a current program that provides children in need with a new pair of shoes. In 2017, Tracy accepted an invitation to serve on a national board that oversees volunteers for the Hunger Task Force, sponsoring events that take place in cities across the U.S. to build up food pantries. Tracy’s varied experiences in both charitable work and in business give her the necessary tools to serve as Trustee.

Tracy has been an excellent Board member who truly cares about the residents of Washington Township and recently said, “I am not a politician. I want to help people, and know how to manage resources responsibly”. We are lucky to have her.

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**From Road Commissioner Jerry Meyer...**

Spring is here, and for most of us, winter was fairly pleasant. If you are one of those people who love the winter weather, you will have to wait until next year.

The mild winter was good for the township as we only had to plow and salt a few times. However, the problem with the mild winter is we do have an abundance of left over salt. The Road District orders salt on contract in March for the following year and we have to take what we order, regardless if we need it or not. On a normal year, we go through about 600 tons of salt. This year, only 250 tons of salt was used so we have to find room for 350 tons of unused salt. Plus, we already had to order salt for next year. It is a guessing game and we hope we come out with a favorable outcome but we will not know until next year. The good news is the price of salt did come down this year to \$48 per ton. Last year it was over \$100.00 per ton.



**The shared salt dome will be full this year due to the mild winter.**

Thank you for your support during the April 4th election. I am humbled to be your Highway Commissioner for another 4 years and I will continue to work hard for all of you to keep the roads safer for your travels.

For 2017, the Road District has plans to blacktop Yates Avenue from Indiana Avenue, north to Eagle Lake Road. This is a big job and the work will have to be bid out. Once all the bids are received, they will be opened and we'll then determine which contractor gets the job. While this is going on, your Road District crews will be busy resealing many of the other Township roads as well as ongoing patching as necessary. Roadside ditch cutting will start later this spring and we will only cut 10' on each side of the roadway during the summer months. Intersections will also be cut to improve visibility. If you have any question or concerns please call my office at 708-946-6459.

And remember please go "slow down" and give road workers a brake, we all want to go home to our families.

Finally, please take the time to read the information on the top of page 6 regarding sharing the roads with our farming community. It's important that all of us our patient and considerate while traveling township roads as our farmers start the annual planting season.

Have a great spring & summer! Thank you.



**Over 1300 early votes have been cast by Washington Township residents in the last 5 election cycles. Over 90 residents voted early during the 2017 April elections.**

### Lion's Club to Sponsor "Summerfest" on August 5

The Beecher Lions Club has announced they are changing their annual "Beef Roast" to the Lion's Club Summerfest. The all-day event is scheduled for August 5 and is designed to offer more activities for the entire family and is capped off with live music as local favorite "Five Guys Named Moe" takes the stage from 6pm to 9pm.

Along with delicious roast beef & pulled pork sandwiches/dinners and a beer garden, the event will offer something for everyone. The list of activities includes: arts & craft show, car show, pony rides, BINGO, live animals, mini "tractor-pull", PAKT demonstration, "Herder" dog demonstrations, Bean Bag Tournament and the Ronald McDonald's Magic Show. In addition, the Lion's Hearing bus will be on site from 10am - 1pm to offer free hearing screens and the LifeSource Blood Bus will be on hand from 9am - 1pm for those who wish to donate blood.

Lion's Club International is a non-profit organization with volunteers that serve their community and provide humanitarian needs. The Beecher Chapter is very active in our community offering glasses and hearing aids for those who are unable to afford them. The club also donates to food pantries, provides free hot dogs and beverages to our "Trick or Treaters" every Halloween at Fireman's Park and offers scholarships to students who are planning a career in the medical field. The group also sponsors the Freedom 5K Race/Walk, which is held on July 4th every year that starts & finishes at Fireman's Park. Race registration forms will be available soon for this year's race.

Mark your calendars to attend "Summerfest" on August 5 and more details will be announced soon!



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**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

***Your Right To Know***

**The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) provides that all government bodies make public records readily available for inspection. 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.**

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

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**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

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**Highway Commissioner**

Jerry Meyer

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

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

**Trustees**

Paul Goldrick

Tracy Heldt

Mark Herlitz

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

**LIKE us on:**



### Springtime Means Planting 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.**



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

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## The Beecher Fire Station is Now a Safe Haven Facility

Illinois' Safe Haven law was written to provide a safe alternative to abandonment for Illinois parents who feel they cannot cope with a newborn baby. It offers safe havens for newborns. Illinois Safe Haven is: **Private, Legal, Safe & Supportive.**



### **PRIVATE**

Can I really keep my baby a secret?

Yes, you can keep your secret and keep your baby safe. No one will ask your name. Your baby will get medical care and be adopted into a loving family. You can even provide anonymous medical information, so your baby will grow up with a medical history. All calls to the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation are completely confidential.

### **LEGAL**

What does the law say?

The Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act says that parents who do not harm their babies cannot be prosecuted for abandonment if they bring their newborn (30 days old or younger) to a safe place and hand the baby to a staff member. Under the law, these safe places are any hospital, emergency care facility, police station or staffed fire station in Illinois. The entire process is legal and completely private. If you bring your baby to a safe place and do not return within 60 days, you voluntarily give up your parental rights so your baby can be adopted.

### **SAFE**

What happens at a safe place?

Hospitals, emergency care facilities, police stations and staffed fire stations are safe places in Illinois. If you hand your baby to personnel at a police or fire station, your newborn will be taken to the nearest hospital. Your baby will receive a health exam, any needed medical care, and be adopted by a loving family. Once you have given your unharmed baby to a hospital worker, police officer or firefighter, you are free to leave. You do not have to give your name or answer any questions. No one will try to stop you or follow you.

Medical records are important as your baby grows up. If you wish, you can fill out forms to provide healthcare workers with medical information. When you bring your newborn baby to a safe haven, these forms will be offered to you. You may fill them out, return them by mail, or obtain the forms later and still mail them back. These medical forms are available for download from the Illinois adoption web site, the State Central Registry. All information will be kept confidential. After you leave, the hospital will call the Department of Children and Family Services. They will contact an adoption agency to start the adoption process.

### **SUPPORTIVE**

Who will help me?

When you take your baby to an Illinois hospital, you may be offered medical care and counseling services. Hospitals may have staff members trained to help you cope and make sure you understand your rights and your options. If you do not want these services, you may simply walk away.

If you want to talk to someone now, you can call the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation (1-312-440-0229) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are here to help and support you, not to judge you. For more information visit: [www.saveabandonedbabies.org](http://www.saveabandonedbabies.org)

(The above information is edited directly from the Save Abandon Babies website.)

## *Washington Township Senior News*

### **Dial-A-Ride Service Expanded To Twice Per Week**

The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service is now available TWICE a week 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, salons, doctor’s offices, or to just visit friends. 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 trips. 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.

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



### **Senior Bus Trips Planned**

We are currently in the process of scheduling a trip to see the Chicago White Sox in June and a trip to a local theatre group in the near future. Check our website for updates!

Washington Township has finalized the dates and times for all remaining Senior Events for 2017. Upcoming events include a senior breakfast in September, our Annual “Holiday Dinner” in December and FOUR more movie nights before the end of the year.

To learn more about these events log on to our website or call the Washington Township offices at 708-946-2026.

### **Important dates for our Seniors:**

**June 14 - 6:30 PM**  
Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch “LA LA LAND”. Refreshments will be served!

**August 16 - 6:30 PM**  
Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch “Hidden Figures”. Refreshments will be served!

**September 16**  
Senior Breakfast and Flu Shot Program. Enjoy a free breakfast and schedule your “flu shot” at the same time!

**September 20 - 6:30 PM**  
Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch “Gifted”. Refreshments will be served!



**SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT**

**“LA LA LAND”**

Watch one of the Best Pictures of 2016 starring Emma Stone & Ryan Gosling!

**June 14, 2017 @ 6:30 PM**

Washington Township Center  
30200 Town Center Road  
Beecher

Coffee and Bakers Square pie will be served.



**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.

- June 5, 2017
- July 6, 2017 - Thursday
- August 7, 2017
- September 7, 2017 - Thursday
- October 2, 2017
- November 6, 2017
- December 4, 2017



**Office Hours**

The Washington Township Offices are open Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. We can be reached at (708) 946-2026.

**Assessor's Office Hours**

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

**Learn more about Washington Township and the services we offer our residents by visiting us online at:**  
[www.washingtontownshipil.com](http://www.washingtontownshipil.com)

**Senior Assessment Freeze Help Offered on May 10**

Assessor Carol Ann Blume has announced that Staff from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments will be at the Washington Township Center on May 10 from 10 am to 2:00 pm to assist seniors in completing their exemption forms.

To qualify for the exemption you must be at least 65 years old with a total household income of LESS than \$55,000 and lived in your home on January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2017. Bring a copy of the front page of your IRS 1040 Tax Form and your Social Security 1099.

Disabled persons exemptions are also renewable at this time. If you have already received your senior freeze assessment application or if you have not received a form and feel that you qualify, we encourage you to visit the township center for assistance.

**Washington Township Food Pantry**

In the past year, the Washington Township Food Pantry has received over \$4000 in donations and has purchased over 7 tons of food. No tax dollars are spent on the pantry due to the generous donations from the residents, local groups, organizations and businesses of Washington Township.

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

**Need A Ride? Call WILL-RIDE - (800) 244-4410**

**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  
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