



## FALL NEWSLETTER

### Township Offers Early Voting for Upcoming Elections

The 2016 Illinois primary and General Election are rapidly approaching. The Clerk's office will once again be holding early voting for these two very important election dates 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. More than 1200 Washington Township voters have taken advantage of this valuable service since 2008.

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 are the same type of units used on Election Day. The process is simple and no one knows how you voted!

In addition to early voting, voters can also stop by the Washington Township Center and request the paperwork to receive a ballot to vote by mail. The one page form is submitted to the county and they will send you the ballot and instructions.

If you are not a registered voter or have recently moved, there is still time to register to vote and this service is also available at the township offices from 9 am – 3 pm from Monday to Friday. If you have any questions please call our office and our staff will gladly assist you.

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.



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**From Supervisor Mike Stanula...**

Hello Washington Township, I take it that everyone has had a pleasant (all be it wet) and eventful summer. Fall is in full swing with the changing of the leaves, the crisp days and cool nights. A lot of people say this is their favorite time of year. Well there have also been some changes in your Township.

As you may or may not know the Township's Dial-a-Ride program is not a free bus service, but rather a 'discount' ride program for our seniors and disabled residents. Let's face it there really is no such thing as a "free lunch". Transportation costs money. There are expenses for fuel, drivers, bus maintenance, training, support staff, etc. Last fiscal year our Dial-a-Ride program cost our Township \$32,944, and this is only a fraction of what the entire Program costs. Some of the revenue that funds the Program comes from ride reimbursements from other townships (Crete, Will) that we service. There are also individual ridership donations and a grant that we have received from a government funded agency called Area on Aging (AoA). Any shortfalls in revenue must be balanced by Washington Township (\$32,944).

The AoA grant is a necessary and very much needed part of the overall revenue needed for our Program to work. The grant is renewable for 3 years after which it goes out for public bid. So our Township needs to and has applied every 3 years. This past summer we again applied for the 3 year AoA grant. A relatively new transportation service spear headed by Will County called Will-Ride also solicited for the grant. Will-Ride services a much larger area and population than what our Dial-a-Ride Program does. There is strength in numbers, Will-Ride believes that with more participants in their program they can keep the costs down. Our Township Board believes that with greater numbers there would be much greater overhead which may lead to lack of services especially to our Township, which is as far away from Joliet as you can get.

Washington Township Transportation has serviced this community for a number of years and has provided excellent unlimited, unbiased service due in part to our dedicated and hardworking staff. The entire AoA grant was awarded to Will-Ride in late August, however. The Washington Township Board has appealed this decision by the AoA. A hearing for the appeal has been scheduled for Oct. 7th (this editorial was written and submitted a week before the scheduled hearing). If the AoA reverses their decision, Washington Township would continue their Dial-a-Ride Program with a projected township cost of approximately \$39,000. If the AoA upholds their decision and we do not receive grant funding and we try to keep our program going as an independent transportation service the anticipated out-of-pocket expense to our township would be just over \$101,000. This expense would not be financially feasible.

The Board has basically two avenues to travel if the hearing does not go in our favor. One, eliminate transportation services completely. This would save us dollars which could expand existing or start new programs. But this would also put a burden on those people who currently use and need this service. Two, join the Will-Ride Program. However, Will-Ride, as I understand, is not set up the same way as our Dial-a-Ride Program is. A rider would not schedule a ride through the Washington Township but rather schedule their rides thru the Will County office. Individual ridership would be predicated on Will-Rides terms and of course what our budget would allow.

We believe Will-Ride will not give us the same service that our seniors have depended on over the past seven years. Because of our location in the county and the fact that we are rural in nature, travel distance to needed destinations, like doctors or dialysis centers are much farther away and this could result in Washington Township having a higher cost per ride (thru Will-ride) which would trickle down to our

Township paying more than what we currently do, which may result in limiting riders due to our budget constraints.

We as a Board have a difficult decision. By the time this Fall Newsletter comes out we will have begun working on a plan. In the meantime we are offering and supporting programs to our seniors such as movie night, senior trips and our annual Holiday Dinner and Concert.

Because it is one of the things that makes this a great place to be!

Mike Stanula - Supervisor

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### **WASHINGTON TRANSPORTATION UPDATE**

On October 7, Supervisor Mike Stanula, Clerk Joe Burgess, Transportation Director Teresa Peterson, Washington Township Attorney Tom Knuth, and Crete Township Trustee Mike Liccar attended a hearing in Wheaton, IL to state their case as to why the township's grant application needed to be reconsidered and a portion of the 2016 Area On Aging (AOA) grant should be awarded to the township.

**Unfortunately, the township lost their appeal and will not be receiving an AOA grant. The township received over \$65,000 in each of the last three years from the AOA and the grant represented approximately 40% of the necessary revenue to run the program. The entire grant (in excess of \$130,000) was awarded to Will County's Will Ride transportation program.**

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

Boy, where does the time go? When I was younger, time couldn't pass fast enough, but as we get older the months pass by so fast. My grandfather said that time passes faster when you get older and he was right. This is fall, the time to get ready for "old man winter". Some might like winter, but as I get older I am more a three-season person: spring, summer and fall, and just skip winter. But we live in the Midwest and we get all four seasons. So winter will be here, we just don't know if it will be a mild one or a harsh one.

#### **Here are some fall tips that could save you time in the winter when it is cold outside:**

- Mail box check. When you pick up your mail, check the box and post, making sure it is solid and the post is not rotten. I get a few calls saying that the snowplow hit their mailbox. But after checking, the plow in fact did not hit the box, but the snow coming off the plow hit the box and took it off the post. The Township only replaces the box if a plow hits it. If the plow hits the box there usually is nothing left of the box itself. But if the snow hits the box it is lying next to the post and we are not responsible for that. It is a lot warmer now to take the time to make sure the mail box is secure.
- Another good idea is to have small driveway markers to mark the edge of the drive. It is a lot easier to get them in now when the ground is soft and not when a foot of snow is on your drive.

#### **Here are some winter driving reminders for driving safely in the white stuff:**

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.
5. Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
6. Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
7. 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.
8. Don't pass snow plows 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.
9. Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.
10. 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.

Corning Road saga, the famous road between Cottage Grove and Stoney Island: we tried to get it back to tar and chip this year BUT what we found under the existing road was worse than what we ever thought. In some places we found over 1 foot of the very black dirt in the middle of the roadway. The Township hauled and moved over 150 truckloads of junk dirt out of the road. I talked to some professional road builders and they said that if you don't get all of the black dirt out it will not hold up to traffic. Also, with putting more than a foot of stone in those places we would not get the compaction we need for tar and chipping the road. With the cost of tar and chipping that would be over \$30,000. I would not want to waste your tax money and not have it done right and do it all over again. So, I apologize for not getting it done in tar and chip but we will get all the stone on it so that when the weather permits next spring, that road will be the first to get done.

Corning Road from Route 1 to Cottage Grove was blacktopped with 2 inches of binder and 1½ inches of surface mix. That work was done by Iroquois Paving and we had some problem spots on the surface so they had to grind it out and replace the surface. That entire project cost the Township over \$220,000. We saved tax dollars for over 3 years to get that road done, funding it from your (MFT) Motor Fuel Tax. That is a small portion of tax you pay when you fuel up your car at the gas station.

### **Just a reminder about Snowplowing**

When you see a any snowplow, please give them room to do their job, just because you see us, we might not see you. If you do get stuck on the roads, please stay with your car because it is the safest place to be! Please do NOT walk on the road in a snowstorm. If you must leave your car, put a phone number on your dash so you can be reached once your car can be moved. It's always a good idea to keep a full gas tank in the winter because you never know how long your trip will take.

Remember that the winter season is full of its own challenges. So slow down and don't take chances on the roads, no matter where you drive or what road you are on. If we all try to be safe we all can see each other in the spring.

Drive safe,  
Jerry K. Meyer - Road Commissioner



**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

**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 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

Visit us online at: [www.washingtontownshipil.com](http://www.washingtontownshipil.com)

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**Your Township Officials:**

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Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Joe Burgess

**Washington Township Food Pantry**

The Washington Township Food Pantry has been very busy serving those in need in our township. The township is very proud to offer this service and is asking for your help. If you are able, please consider donating food and paper items to the pantry as we move into the holiday season.

It's at this time of year when the pantry sees an increase in activity and the goal is to ensure everyone can enjoy a healthy and satisfying holiday dinner.

Donations are always welcome and can be dropped off at the Washington Township Center on Monday thru Friday from 9 am - 3 pm. The pantry is located at the Washington Township Community Building at 673 Penfield St (across from the Beecher Library) and is open on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month from 9 am - 10 am AND from 6 pm - 7 pm. The pantry is also available by appointment. Please call Paul at (708) 516-2594 for additional details or if you need assistance.

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



**ATTENTION VETERANS - FROM ASSESSOR CAROL ANN BLUME**

The disabled veteran exemption has been amended. The exemptions are as follows:

- If you have a service-connected disability of at least 30% but less than 50% you will receive a \$2500 exemption
- If you have a service-connected disability of at least 50% but less than 70% you will receive a \$5000 reduction in your EAV
- If you have a service-connected disability of 70% and higher you will receive a total exemption of no more than 250,000 in assessed value.

Qualifying property must be residential real property (any portion used for commercial purpose does not qualify). You must own and occupy the property as your primary residence on January 1 of the assessment year and be liable for the payment of property taxes.

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

Carol Ann Blume - Washington Township Assessor



**Assessor's Office Hours**

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

\* October 24 @ 8:30 AM - Senior Breakfast at the Beecher Amvet Hall

\* Oct 24 @ 8 AM - 11 AM - Flu Shot Clinic at the Beecher Amvet Hall during the Senior Breakfast

\* Nov 7 @ 11 AM - Veterans 5K Run/Walk (at Cardinal Creek) - benefiting the Wounded Warrior Project. Call 708-946-6540 for more information!

\* Nov 18 @ 6:30 PM - Senior Movie Night at the Washington Township Center - "The Longest Ride" starring Scott Eastwood

\* Dec 6 - The Beecher Women's Club Holiday House Walk. The Women's Club is LOOKING for houses to participate in this years event. It's a great way to start the holiday season and show off your holiday spirit. Call the Village Hall at 946-2261 for more information.

\* Dec 8 @ 6:30 PM - Washington Township Senior Holiday Dinner at the Beecher Amvet Hall



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WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP RECYCLE NEWS

Washington Township has added a sixth recycling bin to accommodate the recycling efforts of our residents. The township originally asked for twice a week service but was told that increasing the frequency of the pickups was not possible at this time. The extra bin has helped to eliminate the many recycling items that are typically left around the bins once they are filled.

The township is pleased to offer this service for its residents and asks that people follow the rules and as a courtesy to others, breakdown their cardboard boxes so more items can be placed in the bins. The bins are emptied every Tuesday, typically in the afternoon.

The recycling collection center is open 7 days a week! Bring your recyclables to the north side of the the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher.

Please NO household trash, furniture, appliances, paint, construction materials, light bulbs, carpeting or used oil. Sorry NO BUSINESS electronics can be accepted.

WE RECYCLE:

- Paper, Cardboard, Plastic & GLASS
• Electronics Recycling
• Clothing, shoes
• Books



# Washington Township Senior News

## Senior Breakfast - October 24 at the Amvet Hall

The fall Senior Breakfast will be held at the Beecher Amvet Hall, 532 Gould Street on October 24 at 8:30 am.

Please call the township office at (708) 946-2026 if you have any questions or would like to schedule transportation to the breakfast.



CALL 708-946-2026

## FLU SHOTS AVAILABLE

Washington Township has partnered with Fagan Pharmacy of Beecher to provide a "Flu Shot Clinic" for residents of Washington Township. Flu shots will be FREE to seniors who are 65 or over and are on Medicare. All other residents will be charged \$20 for regular flu shots.

The clinic will be held from 8 AM to 11 AM during the Senior Breakfast on October 24 at the Beecher Amvet Hall.

Please call the Washington Township office at 708-946-2026 to participate in this program or for more details. Please wear short sleeves or clothing that makes your upper arm accessible.

**Important dates for our Seniors:**

**October 24 - 8:30 AM**  
Senior Breakfast - Free breakfast @ Beecher Amvet Hall and special presentations designed for our Seniors!

**November 18 - 6:30 PM**  
Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch "The Longest Ride". Refreshments will be served!

**December 8 - 6:30 pm**  
Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert at the Beecher Amvet Hall. A free dinner followed by a holiday concert.

**January 23 - 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!

## 9th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert

On December 8 at 6:30 pm, Washington Township will be sponsoring a free holiday dinner and concert for our seniors at the Beecher Amvet Hall. If you only attend one senior event all year, this is the one to attend!

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



### SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT

#### "The Longest Ride"

Starring Scott Eastwood & Alan Alda

November 18, 2015 @ 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.

- November 2, 2015
- December 7, 2015
- January 4, 2016
- February 1, 2016
- March 7, 2016
- March 28, 2016



**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.

Please visit us on the web at [www.washingtontownshipil.com](http://www.washingtontownshipil.com)

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Registered Representative

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### Hours of Operation:

Schedule appointments between the hours of 9:30 am to 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday  
(48-72 hour notice is required - our last pick up is at 2:30 pm)

Washington Township can not charge for the service but please feel free to consider the following "suggested donations".

- \$2 each way for residents who live in Washington Township and travel within Washington Township
- \$4 each way for residents who live in Washington Township and travel outside Washington Township
- \$4 each way for all other non-Washington Township riders

**NO SATURDAY or SUNDAY SERVICE**

Please call our Transportation Director Teresa Peterson, at 708-231-1172 for more information or to schedule a ride.

**Need a business loan?  
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