



## **Catholic Charities to Open Satellite Office in Washington Township Center in November**

"Catholic Charities" and "Senior Services of Will County" are working together throughout Will County to provide better care and access to their services. Catholic Charities is opening a satellite office at the Washington Township Center starting in November 2022. A representative will be onsite on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 8 AM to Noon.

Information and Assistance Specialists will be available to assist with reduced cost license plate applications, "Aging & Disability Resources", Medicare enrollment assistance, health screenings, and many other valuable programs. They also provide referrals and resources to meet the needs of the individual.

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](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org)

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## **Upgrades to Washington Township Center Announced**

The Washington Township Board has been actively discussing and planning many updates for the Washington Township Center. The center, which was dedicated in 2002, recently had all the lighting fixtures converted to energy efficient LED technology. The Board utilized a ComEd rebate program, which offered a 40% rebate for the purchase of the lights and the total cost was approximately \$3800. The Road District is also converting all the lighting in their building at a cost of \$2600.

At the October meeting, the Board voted to replace the landscaping in front of the center. The majority of the original landscaping will be removed, and new vegetation will be planted along with adding mulch. The project was completed on October 10th. Also, a new 77" "smart" TV has been purchased for the Meeting Room to replace an aging projection system that is becoming difficult to find parts for. The new TV will easily connect to newer technology and will be used for Senior Movie nights as well as other presentations. The TV is approximately the same size as the old projection setup and will be tied into the current sound system.

Finally, the township has purchased a "Washington Township" flag, which features the township logo. The flag is being displayed in the Meeting Room and another flag will soon be flying outside under the US flag.

## Hello Friends and Neighbors from Supervisor Mike Stanula...

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and I wish you nothing but health and happiness as we approach the change of seasons and the end of another year. Your Township is also healthy and happy as well. Please read thru this issue of your Townships Fall newsletter. There are many upcoming events that you and your family would surely enjoy. We are looking into events that will bring us closer together, encourage health and happiness and foster community spirit and pride.

Speaking of community pride, did you know that four Amendments to the Constitution, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 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 and complacent chore.

Here's proof. The 2019 Chicago mayoral-election had a total voter turnout of 32% ! Ok that's Chicago, they have problems. What about my backyard. Well, the 2022 Illinois Primary election had a whopping 19.6% total voter turnout! This is a big deal. Your vote today will create changes tomorrow. Please exercise your Constitutional right to VOTE.

Election day is November 8th, 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 24 thru November 4th / Monday - Friday from 9am to 3pm and Saturday, October 29th from 9am-noon. So do something historic this November 8<sup>th</sup> and please vote. Because it's one of the things that make Beecher a Great place to be!

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**CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY  
SET FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH**

We're excited to announce the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Village of Beecher Christmas Tree Lighting** event to be held at Firemen's Park the evening of Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>! A light parade (open to small vehicles, golf carts, etc.) will kick off throughout the park at 5 p.m. with the official tree lighting to follow immediately. The event will conclude at 7:30 p.m. For the duration, and while supplies last, free food and drink will be available at the food stand. On top of that we have a few new additions to help everyone enjoy this kick-off to the holiday season! This year, we'll be honored to have a very special guest joining us to bring the holiday spirit to town...Santa Claus himself will be there to flip the switch and is even going to take time out of his busy holiday preparations to have a seat so kids can come up and tell him what's on their wish list.

The busy Beecher elves are preparing some 'Santa's Workshop' activities where kids will be able to take part in a few holiday crafts and write a letter to be sent to the North Pole. Also, we'll have a decorative photo backdrop available as well if anyone would like to take some holiday pictures to share on social media or with friends and family. Finally, we'll have a toy drop-off for charity and plan to be running a Holiday 50/50 raffle. Planning and coordination with other groups is still in progress so we'll have more information to share in the future. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

The tentative holiday schedule (right) is a snapshot of currently planned holiday events in the area that are open to the public. Try as we might it's difficult to capture everything at this early date so this list may not include the many events being planned. The parade schedule below is tentative and subject to change or cancellation.

Thank you Washington Township, Beecher Chamber of Commerce, Beecher Lions Club, Beecher Library District, Beecher Fire Protection District, local churches, and more for all the events helping to bring some joy to our corner of the world this holiday season!

For more details on events not held by the Village please follow up with the responsible organization.

**LIGHT PARADE DETAILS**

- *Pre-registration not required*
- *Public participation encouraged*
- *Open to small vehicles, golf carts, etc.*
- *Cash prizes available!*
- *Look forward to more details to come!*

**TENTATIVE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**November 27**

- ~ **Tree Lighting** – 4:30-7 p.m. in Firemen's Park
- ~ **Light Parade** – 5 p.m. in Firemen's Park

**December 7**

- ~ **Make a Present for your Parent** – 4 p.m. at Beecher Community Library

**December 10**

- ~ **Zion Church Cookie Walk**

**December 11**

- ~ **Breakfast with Santa** - by Beecher Lions Club at the Beecher Amvet Hall

**December 13**

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

**December 21**

- ~ **'Gingerbread House Building'** - 4 p.m. at Beecher Community Library

**December 24**

- ~ **Beecher Fire District Santa Ride** – (to be held in the evening)

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

## From Assessor Pat Peters...

If you are a homeowner, senior citizen, veteran, disabled veteran, or disabled person, you might be eligible for a money-saving exemption. The Supervisor of Assessments is responsible for administering the following exemptions:

- **General Homestead Exemption**
- **Senior Citizens' Homestead Exemption**
- **Senior Citizens' Assessment Freeze Exemption**
- **Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption**
- **Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemption**
- **Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption**

If you think you are missing an exemption to which you are entitled, please contact Assessor Pat Peters or the Supervisor of Assessments Office.

**An explanation of all the available exemptions are listed below. Please contact Assessor Pat Peters if you have questions or think you may qualify for any of the listed exemptions!**

Land	15,808
+ Building	55,432
+ Added Assessment	0
- Improvement Exemption	0
= Total Assessed Value	71,240
x Twp Multiplier	1.0000
x County Multiplier	1.0000
= Equalized Value	71,240
- Farm Land	0
+ Farm Building	0
- Homestead Exemption	6,000
- Sr Citizen Exemption	0
- Sr Citizen Freeze Exemp	0
- Enterprise Zone Exemp	0
- Open Space Exemp	0
= Net Equalized Value	65,240
x Tax Rate	7.1035
= Before Exemptions	5,060.53
- From Exemptions	426.21
= After Exemptions	4,634.32
+ Other Tax	0
= Total Tax Due	4,634.32

### General Homestead Exemption

Homestead property (residential property that is occupied by its owner as his/her principal dwelling place) is entitled to an annual homestead exemption of **\$6,000** off the assessed value. If your tax bill is missing the General Homestead Exemption, please contact your local Township Assessor.

### Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption (PTAX- 324)

The Senior's Homestead property is entitled to an annual exemption of \$5,000 off the assessed value. This is in addition to the General Homestead Exemption and any other applicable exemptions. To qualify, you must be 65 years of age or older during the assessment year, own or have legal or equitable interest in the property occupied as your principal residence during the assessment year, and be liable for payment of the property taxes. To file for a Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption you need:

- A copy of your Illinois drivers license **OR** Illinois State ID **OR** birth certificate
- A copy of your current Tax Bill **OR** your P.I.N. (property index number)

### Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption (PTAX- 343)

The Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption is entitled to an annual exemption of \$2,000 off the assessed value. This is in addition to the General Homestead Exemption and any other applicable exemptions. To qualify, you must be disabled or become disabled during the assessment year, own or have legal or equitable interest in the property or a lease-hold interest of a single-family residence, occupy the property as your principal place of residence on January 1st of the assessment year, and be liable for payment of the property taxes. Check with the Assessor's Office for eligibility requirements.

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## Continued from Assessor Pat Peters

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### Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption (PTAX- 340)

Allows qualified senior citizens to have their home's equalized assessed value (EAV) "frozen" at the base year value and prevents increases due to inflation. (The tax rate is not frozen.) This exemption would be in addition to the General Homestead Exemption and any other applicable exemptions. To qualify for the 2022 tax year (payable in 2023) you must be 65 or older in 2022; your total household income in 2021 was \$65,000 or less and on January 1, 2021 and January 1, 2022 you used the property as your principal place of residence; you own or have legal or equitable interest in the property or a leasehold interest in the property used as a single-family residence; and you are liable for the payment of property taxes. You do not qualify for this exemption if your property is assessed under the mobile home privilege tax. To file for a Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption you will need to use the front page of your 2021 IRS 1040 and your 2021 Social Security 1099 while completing the application. If you did not file a 2021 IRS 1040, use the 2021 Social Security 1099 and ALL other household income verification for 2021.

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### Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemption (PTAX- 342)

Provides an annual reduction in the equalized assessed value (EAV) of the primary residence occupied by a disabled veteran on January 1st of the assessment year or on a prorated basis during the time of occupancy for the assessment year. This is in addition to the General Homestead Exemption and any other applicable exemptions. A veteran with 70% -100% service connected disability will receive an annual decrease in their assessed value to Zero (0), when the EAV is \$250,000 or less. A veteran with 50%-60% service connected disability will receive an annual \$5,000 reduction off the assessed value. A Veteran with 30%-40% service connected disability will receive an annual \$2,500 reduction off the assessed value. To qualify you must be an Illinois resident who has served as a member of U.S. Armed Forces on active duty or state active duty, Illinois National Guard, or U.S. Reserve Forces, and not dishonorably discharged. Check with the Assessor's Office for eligibility requirements.

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### Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption (PTAX- 341)

The Returning Veteran's Homestead Exemption provides a \$5,000 reduction off the assessed value of the veteran's principal residence for two consecutive assessment (tax) years, the tax year and the following year that the veteran returns from active duty in an armed conflict involving the armed forces of the United States. The veteran must own and occupy the property as his or her principal residence on January 1 of each assessment year. This is in addition to the General Homestead Exemption and any other applicable exemptions. Check with the Assessor's Office for eligibility requirements.

### Washington Township Newsletter is Celebrating 15 Years!

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year that the Washington Township Newsletter has been published. The newsletter, which is published twice a year, is edited by Clerk Joe Burgess, and has won the Township Officials of IL "Best Newsletter" for our population category on three different occasions.

The Board wants to thank everyone who has contributed articles and information to keep our residents informed about current events, activities, and important information. We especially want to thank all the area businesses that have faithfully supported the newsletter through their advertising. Please patronize our advertisers as they have shown a commitment to support your community as their ads help keep the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter to a minimum!

**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

The Will-Ride "suggested" donations for rides outside Washington Township are \$4 one way or \$8 round trip

You MUST register with Washington Township to be eligible for Will-Ride

*Restrictions Apply*

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

*New landscaping has been completed at the Washington Township Center. The \$5000 project included all new bushes, plants, grasses and new mulch.*



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**MEETING INFO**

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 are open to the public and public commentary is welcome.

Please call Supervisor Mike Stanula at 946-2026 if you need assistance.

We are a **TOYS FOR TOTS** collection site!

# Washington Township Senior News

## 15th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner

On December 13 at 5:30 pm, Washington Township will be sponsoring a free holiday dinner along with holiday music for our seniors at the Beecher Amvet Hall. 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 December 9 at 7 pm. 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 18, 2023 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 inclement weather, (blizzard, heavy snow or poor driving conditions) the movie will be held on January 25.



### SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT

**"Jerry & Marge Go Large"**

**November 16, 2022 @ 6:30 PM**

Washington Township Center

Don't let the title get in the way of this movie! Larry figures out a way to legally win the lottery. It's fun and it allows us to coast along on our desire to get rich by beating the system and it's based on a TRUE story.

### Important dates for our Seniors:

**November 16 - 6:30 PM**

Senior MOVIE Night  
Refreshments will be served!

**December 13 - 5:30 pm**

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

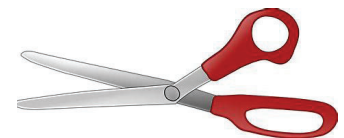
**January 18, 2023 - 12:30 PM**

Senior PIZZA & MOVIE MATINEE - Refreshments will be served!

**Spring 2023 (date to be determined)**

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

**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.**

**Important Safety Information from Beecher Fire Department Chief Joe Falaschetti Jr.**

***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**

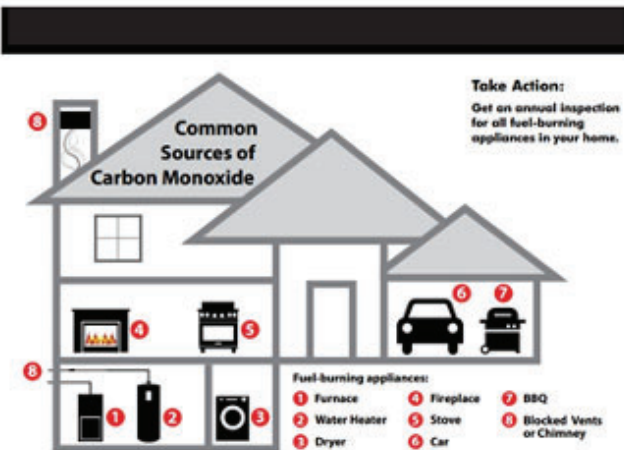
Place detectors nearest to bedrooms as possible since you are most vulnerable to CO poisoning while sleeping. If your bedrooms are in different parts of the house, place separate detectors near each bedroom area.

**React**

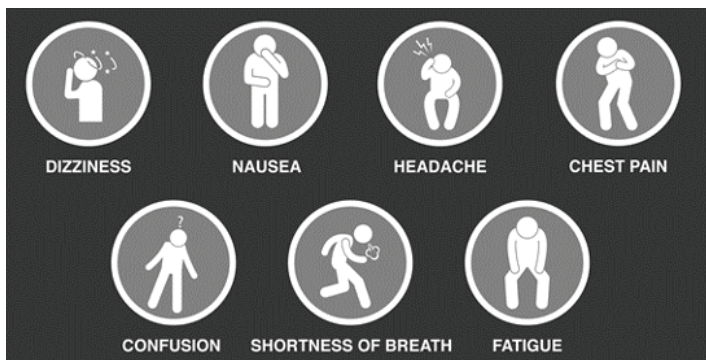
Take immediate action if your CO detector sounds or if you have headaches, fatigue, dizziness, shortness of breath, nausea, and/or confusion. Get fresh air immediately. Call 911 and make sure everyone moves outdoors into fresh air. Do not reenter the building until the fire department has inspected the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

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

# CO SOURCES



## Health effects of an acute CO exposure!





## Beecher Fire Protection District Providing Smoke Alarms and Fire Prevention Education Through “Be Alarmed”! Program

The Beecher Fire Protection District is working cooperatively with the nonprofit Illinois Fire Safety Alliance and Office of the State Fire Marshall to provide no-cost smoke alarms to residents of Beecher. The Be Alarmed! Smoke Alarm Installation program provides smoke alarms and fire prevention materials to Illinois fire departments in an effort to both educate residents on fire safety as well as to provide them with life-saving devices in their home.

The program was developed to educate residents on the dangers of fire, how to prevent fire from occurring in the home, and to ensure there are working smoke alarms properly installed in homes. By utilizing 10-year concealed battery smoke alarms, it ensures that the power source cannot be removed from the unit and, if properly maintained, will last the life of the device.

“Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning device there is,” says Fire Chief Joe Falaschetti. By merely having a working smoke alarm in your home, it reduced your chance of dying in a reported fire by half.

Our goal is to make sure residents have the protection of a smoke alarm, says Chief Falaschetti. Because smoke alarms alone won’t prevent every fire death our program includes educating residents on how to create a home fire escape plan, so they know what to do if their smoke alarm sounds.

Residents who wish to receive more information about the Beecher Fire Protection District’s smoke alarm installation program should contact the department at (708) 946-6585 or visit the Fire District’s website at: [www.beecherfire.org](http://www.beecherfire.org)

### Washington Township Partners with Toys For Tots

Washington Township will once again be collecting toys for “Toys For Tots”. Working to make this a true township effort, “Toys for Tots” collection boxes will be located at the Washington Township Center, Beecher Village Hall, and local banks.

New, unwrapped and unopened toys can be dropped off at these collection sites during their regular business hours. The township is very thankful for the support the community offered last year and invite our residents to come out and support this worthy cause.

The collection boxes will be available starting in November thru early December. To learn more about Toys For Tots visit them at [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org).



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



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### Township Offers Early Voting for Upcoming Elections

The 2022 General Election will be held on November 8 and the Township’s Clerk’s office will once again be holding early voting and is urging people to utilize early voting if they can’t get to the polls on Election Day or just prefer to not deal with lines and crowds.

Early Voting will be held at the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher, on Monday through Friday from October 24 through November 4 from 9 am to 3 pm and on Saturday, October 29 from 9 am to noon. All residents of **WILL COUNTY** are eligible to vote at our site. The process is quick and 100% secure.

David Davila, RPh.

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### 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!

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*2022 FALL - WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER*

**EARLY VOTING**  
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See page 10 for details!



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