



Beecher Women’s Club Celebrates 100 Years!

The Women’s Club of Beecher serves as the oldest philanthropic organization in Washington Township. This group of women has been meeting, organizing service activities, and supporting others in Beecher for over 100 years!

How did the Women’s Club of Beecher begin? In 1922, Mrs. Maude Stites asked some of her friends to join her at her home for coffee and a discussion about the formation of a club. The first gathering included these fifteen forward thinking women: Dorothy Bahlman, Tillie Bielfeldt, Flora Ehrhardt, Vivian Ehrhardt, Gertrude Hack, Marie Hack, Ina Heldt, Violet Heldt, Rose Hunte, Erna Knuth, Myrtle Myrick, Pearl Schultz, Maude Stites, Winnie Wegert, and Lina Wehling.



The club was founded on March 7, 1922, and many of these ladies’ descendants are members of the club today. It began as the Women’s Welfare Club of Beecher and the object of the club would be both civic and charitable. Some of their first projects included beautification of the village. Funds were raised to build a bandstand and install a water fountain in Firemen’s Park. They were also set on improving Veterans’ Memorial Park by the train depot. Founding member Myrtle Myrick was believed to have raised and lowered the flag at the memorial park for over fifty years.

Over the years the Women’s Club has contributed to many projects: Red Cross, Beecher Community schools, March of Dimes, food drives, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Salvation Army, Frosty Friends, Women’s Welfare Club Park, bronze memorial plaques, as well as active participation and support of the Beecher Centennial in 1970 and the Quasiquicentennial in 1995.

The blood drives in Beecher were started by the Women’s Club in 1975. In 1977, the club began their own scholarship for a graduating senior of Beecher High School. They have also had a long-time connection with the Beecher Community Library. The library began as a free lending library in the home of member Jean Ohlendorf.

Over the last decade, the club has sponsored several spring teas and holiday craft bazaars.

They recently celebrated their 100th anniversary dinner at the Princess Cafe. It was a special evening honoring members past and present for their contributions to the club and the community as follows:

Jean Ohlendorf (in memoriam) 75 years
Beverly Wehling 58 years
Ruthann Sanders 57 years
Lisa Poth (in memoriam) 53 years
Barb Bakhaus 50 years
Gwen Dean 50 years

Shirley Biery 48 years
Marilyn Rossler 48 years
Nancy Heldt 43 years
Vicki Squier 42 years

(Continued on page 2)



What makes the Women's Club so special? As quoted by a long-term member, "The fact that so few could accomplish so much, and through all the years continue to get along so well and enjoy being together. Four generations of my family have been or continue to be members."

If you are interested in joining this phenomenal group of ladies, they meet the first Tuesday of every month September-December and February-June in the Beecher Community Hall at 7 PM in the basement. Are you interested in supporting their projects? These ladies began a wonderful tradition of raffling off a handmade quilt during the July 4th celebration. They added a YETI cooler to their fundraising efforts. The group recently published a cookbook featuring recipes of our members: past and present.

Beecher Women's Club members can be found at the Beecher Farmers' Market over the summer and in Firemen's Park, during the 4th of July, selling raffle tickets for these fabulous items. The cookbooks are also available at the Beecher Community Library.

"Go into the world and do well. But more importantly go into the world and do good."
-M. Myers

Congratulations from Washington Township to the Beecher Women's Club on their 100th Anniversary, a truly amazing accomplishment! A special "Thanks" to Melissa Ohlendorf for contributing this story!

From Supervisor Mike Stanula

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

I hope that this issue of the Washington Township Spring Newsletter finds you and your loved ones healthy and happy.

The past year or so, our lives have no doubt been a struggle as we try to get back to some kind of "normal". We all have had ups and downs, achievements, and setbacks, wins and losses. There is a famous quote that is often used.... "Life is a Journey, not a Destination". Life's Journey is a healthy balance between success and failure and Life is never a Destination. The World has been throwing a lot of curve balls at us lately, but as a community we stand strong. We at the Township want to be part of your "Journey". We are going to take it slow, see how the world is treating us and take it one step at a time. That being said, we are opening some activities this summer to see how it goes. Like, speaking of curveballs, a Chicago White Sox and a Joliet Jackhammer's baseball game has been scheduled. Those outings have always been popular, and we want to bring them back. Call the Township Offices and speak with Tammy for more details or to purchase tickets, we will be providing buses to both games. We also want to bring back our popular senior breakfast, which will be scheduled for this fall. Also, back by popular demand our famous Holiday Dinner in December. No reservations needed for those events, just show up with an appetite and some good stories to tell your friends. Your Township has always and will always be a friend to local organizations. We have already approved sponsorships for some of your favorite summertime Beecher events, like the annual Beecher 4th of July Celebration and the Beecher Lions Club Summer Fest in August. We are, as always looking into other events as they become available.

The world is constantly changing, and as time goes on things change, people change. We have asked this every once in a while, but if you could be so kind and do us a favor. Let us know what you would like to see your Township do, to help make your "Journey" better. Drop us a note at the Township offices either by snail mail, email or in person. We will look at all your suggestions and we will see what we can do for you. This is your Township, this is your community, and these are your neighbors. This is your year to.....Enjoy the ride, smell the flowers, and look around at everything along the way.

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

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- * June 2-4** - Beecher Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days
- * July 1-4** - Annual Beecher “4th of July” Celebration at Firemen’s Park. Car raffle, your chance to win a 2022 Chevy Trailblazer LT Sport. Drawing on July 4, at 11 PM
- * July 4 @ 8 AM** - Freedom 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Beecher Lion’s Club
- * Aug 6** - Beecher Lion’s Club “Summerfest” Celebration - Beef Roast, Car Show and More!
- * Concert Series in the Park** - NEW this year - see the Entertainment Lineup Below!! Sponsored by the Village of Beecher!

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CONCERT SERIES IN THE PARK
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Village of Beecher

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2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May 7 (Saturday) 6-9 p.m.	Acoustic Abrasion -Food & drink available for purchase from the Village of Beecher.
May 15 (Sunday) 4-7 p.m.	Shout Section Big Band -Picnic in the park (bring your own food and drink)
June 4 (Saturday) 6-9 p.m.	Iron Horse -Food trucks
June 12 (Sunday) 5-7:30 p.m.	Raices Latin Jazz Fusion -Picnic in the park (bring your own food and drink)
July 2 (Saturday) 7-10:30 p.m.	Pearl Jam Tribute Band -Many food choices available
August 6 (Saturday) 6-9 p.m.	"Just Roll With It" Band -Food & drink available for purchase - Beecher Lion's Club Beef Roast
August 14 (Sunday) 4-7 p.m.	The E-Z Tones Polka -Polish cuisine available for purchase
September 3 (Saturday) 6-9 p.m.	The Critical UV's

Village of Beecher
2022-04-26 12:11

Your Township Officials:

Supervisor

Mike Stanula
supervisor@washingtontownshipil.com

Clerk

Joe Burgess
clerk@washingtontownshipil.com

Assessor

Pat Peters
assessor@washingtontownshipil.com

Highway Commissioner

Mike Smith
commissioner@washingtontownshipil.com

Trustees

Tracy Heldt
Mark Herlitz
George Obradovich
Teresa Peterson

Office Coordinator / General Assistance

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

Washington Township Senior News

Assessment Freeze Help Offered on May 10

Assessor Pat Peters has announced that her office will be offering assistance to Washington Township residents on May 10 from 10 am to 1:00 pm to assist seniors in completing their exemption forms. Former Assessor Mary Tamez will be assisting with the application process. No appointments are necessary - first come first serve.

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.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A TAX EXEMPTION?

There are many exemptions that you may qualify for! Call Assessor Peter's office if you qualify for any of the exemptions listed below.

General Homestead Exemption

- Do you live on the property, a named owner on the deed, and it is your principal residence? You qualify! This exemption is added and removed by our office, there is no form. ALWAYS check your property tax bill to make sure you have it if you qualify.

Disabled Person Exemption

- Are you collecting disability? You qualify! Please bring in the proof of disability or come to the office to get the form for the doctor to fill out for the proof and we will assist you with the exemption form.

Senior Homestead Exemption

- Do you turn 65 this year and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in your drivers license or ID for proof of age and we will assist you in the application.

Senior Freeze Exemption

- Are you 65 and have a total household income of less than \$65,000? You qualify! Bring in your current "Federal" income tax form and/or any forms you would normally take to have your income taxes done. If you meet the filing requirements, we will have the forms in our office after April 1st and can assist you in filling out the form.

Disabled Veteran

- Are you a Veteran with at least 30% service-connected disability through the Department of Veterans Affairs and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in a copy of your DD 214 as well as the proof of disability for the current year you are applying for that lists your percentage of disability and we will assist you in filling out the form.

Important dates for our Seniors:

May 10- 10AM - 2PM

Senior Assessment Freeze Assistance Program

June 22 - 6:30 PM

Senior Movie Night - Come and watch "Greyhound". Refreshments will be served!

August 24 - 6:30 PM

Senior Movie Night - Come and watch "CODA", the Best Picture of 2021! Refreshments will be served!

Senior Fall Breakfast

Date and location to be determined! Stay tuned.

October 17 - 6:30 PM

Senior Movie Night! Refreshments will be served!

December 6 - 5:30 PM

Senior Holiday Dinner at the Beecher Amvet Hall

Senior Bus Trips!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

- May 13 - Joliet Slammers Baseball
- June 21 - Chicago White Sox vs. NY Yankees

Call us at 708-946-2026 for more information or to reserve your tickets!



"Greyhound"

Starring Tom Hanks!

June 22, 2022 @ 6:30 PM

Washington Township Center

Refreshments will be served.

From the Beecher Fire Protection District

Why is your address so important? In an emergency, it is crucial to have your 9-1-1 address posted for emergency services to locate you. Every second counts in a life and death situation, and without proper identification, they may be unable to locate you. Address Markers/Numbers should...

- **Be Visible in the Dark** - Put the numbers on your house under a light. Numbers on a mailbox or post should be reflective or on a highly contrasting background. Numbers need to be at least 3” in height and must be reflective.
- **Be Uncovered** - Several times per year, trim the bushes, vines, flowers, and weeds so ALL numbers are clearly visible. Move flower baskets, flags, and other items that may obstruct a clear view.
- **Be Posted Twice on Long or Shared Driveways** - If the driveway leads to more than one address, post all numbers at the end of the driveway, and also post the correct number on each building. Your 9-1-1 numbers should be posted where they are easy to see from the road.
- **Be Visible from Both Directions**



9-1-1 Reflective Address Sign Program

Beecher Fire Protection District is currently working to ensure that every address is properly marked for resident safety and emergency responders. We are currently offering blue reflective signs with your 9-1-1 address for \$10.00. Applications for the signs can be obtained on our website or in our front office at Station 44 located at 711 Penfield Street. Please indicate on the order form if you'd like your sign installed by our firefighters or if you would prefer to install your sign on your own. These signs are not available for residents outside of the Beecher Fire Protection District service area.

ORDER YOUR'S TODAY!

Beecher Farmer's Market Returns

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is again sponsoring the Beecher Farmer's Market for 2022 in the Beecher Village Hall parking lot at 625 Dixie Highway.

The first market will be held on Saturday, May 28 and continue on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, through October. The market is open from 9 am to 1 pm.

For more information please visit their Facebook page at:

[BeecherFarmersMarket](#)



BEECHER FARMER'S MARKET

News From the Community Building Board of Managers

This past year has seen many improvements at the Washington Township Community Hall. The sidewalks and entrance stairs have all been replaced as well as ramp access and new railings added. A stamped pad was put in around the cannon to add additional flare. After the sidewalk installation was finished, the grounds around the building were landscaped to not only help improve the exterior view but to also help alleviate some of the drainage issues the building has had for decades. We will soon be planting new Japanese Red Maple trees on the west side of the building (to replace the trees that had to be removed) for additional curb appeal. If you haven't had a chance to see the changes, we invite you to stop by and take a look!

Some of the upcoming projects we will be focusing on are to possibly have some tuck-pointing and masonry repairs completed as well as having the outside fire escape painted.

The hall continues to be accepting applications for rent from any Washington Township residents. 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.

Township Offers General Assistance for those in Need

Washington Township provides many important functions that economically improve the quality of life in our community. One of our goals at the Township is to assess, address and advocate for the needs and concerns of Township residents. We provide support and assist individuals and/or families in times of need.

Beyond being a resource for residents, Washington Township administers **General Assistance** to help sustain people in situations, who are not otherwise eligible for federal or state assistance programs, and we administer the emergency assistance program to help people in emergency situations with evictions and utility disconnections. We also work with our residents to coordinate other charitable and governmental programs that may help them in their time of need.

To find out if you qualify for General or Emergency Assistance, please stop by our office or call us at 708-946-2026 for a **confidential** screening.

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 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 Food Pantry

The Washington Township Food Pantry is open to any township resident or family that is in need of help. Offering canned foods, paper goods, cleaning items, frozen food and at times, fresh products, the pantry strives to provide quality items for those in need.

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

"People Helping People!"

Township to Offer Early Voting for June General Primary Election

Washington Township will once again be offering Early Voting for the 2022 General Primary Election to be held on June 28.

Early Voting will be held at the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher, on Monday through Friday from June 13 through June 24 from 9 am to 3 pm. Voting will also be available on Saturday, June 18 from 9 am to noon. All residents of Washington Township (Beecher) are eligible to vote at our site. The process is quick and 100% secure.

There is still time to register to vote. The last day to register to vote online is June 12 and you can still register to vote in-person, up until and on election day on June 28. Registration is available at numerous locations throughout the area including the Will County’s Clerk Office, the Washington Township Center, and the Village of Beecher Village Hall during normal business hours.

The General Primary Election is held prior to the November General Election, commonly known as the midterm elections, in which all 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be contested. Thirty-nine state and territorial gubernatorial and numerous other state and local elections will also be contested.

Clerk Joe Burgess 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.

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



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UPCOMING TOWNSHIP ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS for 2022

Highway Commissioner Mike Smith has indicated that he will be concentrating on the following projects as construction season starts.

- ◆ **Tar & chip Racine Ave from Indiana Ave to Church Road**
- ◆ **Tar & chip Delite Inn Road from Route 1 to Cottage Grove Ave.**
- ◆ **Tar & Chip Kentucky Road from Ashland Ave to Route 1**

Ongoing Maintenance for the Season includes:

- ◆ Asphalt patching as needed
- ◆ Grading as needed
- ◆ Culvert assessments / repair or replace as needed
- ◆ Seal coating as needed
- ◆ Roadside ditch mowing (especially corners)
- ◆ Address any drainage issues



PLEASE remember to **“Slow Down”** in construction zones during these projects and all other road projects throughout our area.

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.

Learn more about Washington Township, our services, meeting dates and more by visiting our website: www.washingtontownshipil.com

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