



F A L L N E W S L E T T E R

Senior Services of Will County in Discussions for Office Space at the Washington Township Center

Senior Services of Will County and Washington Township have entered into discussions to bring a satellite location to eastern Will County at the Washington Township Center. Senior Services recently lost their shared space in Monee and reached out to the Village of Beecher for space, who immediately contacted the township. The Washington Township Center is one of the larger township facilities in eastern Will County and could provide the office space if both sides can agree on terms and other additional requirements.

Senior Services has indicated that 20% of their caseload is in Eastern Will County and they have one full time caseworker in this area that needs office space. A typical caseworker works “in the field” about four days a week and can utilize one day a week for walk in appointments as required.

Senior Services of Will County is a state agency funded through the state and works closely with the Agency on Aging and other organizations to offer many free services and assistance to seniors in Will County. Their services include assistance with Medicare enrollment and all things Medicare related, helping with Veterans benefits, transit passes, reduced fee license plates, free tax preparation, caregiver support and respite assistance. They also can help coordinate services with the Illinois Department on Aging's Community Care Program helping seniors to stay in their own homes by providing in-home and community based services. The Community Care Program aims to help seniors maintain their independence as an alternative to nursing home placement. Other services include senior related seminars and activities.

Although the two sides are very early in the discussions, it is clear that there is a need to make Senior Services numerous programs and assistance more accessible to the many seniors in eastern Will County.

Washington Township Center Parking Lot Upgraded

On October 17, the Washington Township parking lot was repaved. The project has been discussed over the last two years and the Board approved the \$27,572 project at the August meeting when they awarded the “asphalt only paving” bid to Paving Systems of Blue Island.

The 17-year old parking lot had been deteriorating in recent years and after inspection, it was determined that the base needed to be rebuilt and new asphalt would be required. The Washington Township Road District removed the old asphalt and installed a heavier base before Paving Systems paved the lot. The Township will fully reimburse the Road District for all labor and materials and with the Township & Road District working together, the joint project saved the residents of Washington Township thousands of dollars. The entire project was paid for from the Washington Township Corporate Fund.



Workers begin laying asphalt on the Township Center parking lot on October 17

From Supervisor Mike Stanula...

Hello Friends and Neighbors

Fall is here again and I think that most of us agree that it is probably everyone's favorite time of year. So I'm writing this article for our Township Newsletter on my laptop. When I finish with it, I will email to our clerk Joe Burgess, who will put it into the newsletter that he is putting together on his computer, which he emails to the printer, who then enters it into their computer and prints it out through their computer controlled printing equipment. Then it gets delivered out to you and me.

Computers are everywhere on your lap, on your desk, in your car and in your pocket. Computers are part of your everyday life, so since you will most likely be at your computer sometime today, please check out our township website, the address is www.washingtontownshipil.com. The website is loaded with information like upcoming township events, past newsletters, maps, meeting dates and so much more. Having a township website is a very effective means of communication. Come visit us via the information highway, I guarantee you won't be disappointed, because Beecher is a great place to be.

The Washington Township Board would like to give a special "Thank You" to First Community Bank and Trust for donating seat cushions to the Washington Township Center. The cushions will be used for "Senior Movie Nights" and other events held throughout the year at the Washington Township Center.



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An Equal Housing Lender

From Road Commissioner Jerry K. Meyer...

It is that time of year -- we start checking over our vehicles for the upcoming long winter season of cold and snowy weather. Just a few things you might want to have in your vehicle when winter does come: blankets, gloves, an extra set of clothing, jumper cables, some nonperishable snacks, a power pack for your phone, and some extra medication you might need for an unexpected overnight stay. I am sure you can add to the list but it gives you something to think about if you wouldn't make it home due to a snow storm.

Just a recap of a few of this year's projects: Klemme Road north of Brunswick was finished with a new base and was tar and chipped. I would like to thank Bob Harms for helping us with the project. Klemme Road south of Brunswick was also re-coated with tar and chips, along with Corning Road from the State Line west to Yates. We are still planning on getting Ashland Avenue north of Church, and Eagle Lake Road east of Western sealed if the weather holds out. This year was not a good year with all of the rain we had throughout the spring and summer. It did delay a lot of projects due to the flooding, however, patching is on-going throughout the year. The road sides will be cut as soon as the farmers get some of the fields harvested. We do this to keep the snow from blowing on the roadways. Here are some winter driving tips.

Driving Safely on Icy Roads

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 snowplows 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.



Klemme Rd resurfaced north of Brunswick



Thanks and have a safe Holiday season! Jerry

From Assessor Mary Tamez

Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty. Act with integrity. ~ Roy T. Bennett

I have had the privilege of getting to know so many in our community over the years either in office or when out at the events hosted by the Township. Building relationships within the community to help strengthen the transparency has always been a goal of mine, and in my office the goal is to treat each person as if it was me walking into the office for help. Each situation is different and with that, I will take the time to **listen with curiosity**, and then try to help by explaining what resources are out there to help with the property tax burden.

Many times after meeting with property owners, we find that although the value that we have placed on the property seems fair, you may not like the tax dollar amount that is paid. The second part of the property tax bill is the tax rate. When figuring your property tax bill, we start with the assessed value of the property (33.33% of the market value), less the exemptions, and multiply that by the tax rate. The tax rate is based on the location of your property and changes annually. Here is an example of tax code 2201 that some may pay into:

Taxing Body	2017		2018	
	Rate	Amount	Rate	Amount
FOREST PRESERVE	.1895	101.98	.1504	84.16
WILL COUNTY BLDG COMM	.0000	.00	.0000	.00
WSHG TN TWP TOWN FUNDS	.2583	139.01	.2484	139.00
WSHG TN TWP ROAD FUNDS	.3260	175.44	.3134	175.37
BEECHER FIRE DISTRICT	1.1127	598.81	1.1104	621.36
SCHOOL DISTRICT 200-U	6.8618	3,692.75	6.8095	3,810.46
COMM COLLEGE DIST 515	.4577	246.32	.4481	250.75
VILLAGE OF BEECHER	.7399	398.18	.7097	397.13
VIL BEECHER RD & BR	.2792	150.25	.2683	150.14
BEECHER PUBLIC LIB	.2022	108.82	.1999	111.86
WILL COUNTY	.5986	322.14	.5927	331.67
WASH TWP DR DIST #3		1.40		2.24
*** TOTAL ***	11.0259	5,935.10	10.8508	6,074.14

Your assessment is multiplied by the rates of all the taxing bodies in your tax code to create your property tax bill. Your tax bill is based on this; therefore, it is critical to make sure the assessment is correct on the property.

It is the responsibility of the homeowner to check the property record card to make sure the assessment is correct and that you have all the exemptions that you qualify for. I invite each of you to the office if you have questions or notice any issues. We may not be able to reduce the assessment or the property tax bill however, I will **speak with honesty** and confidence knowing I have taken the time to investigate each issue with hopes of a solution and that although we may not like to pay property taxes, you feel that your portion of the tax burden is fair.

I look forward to helping and getting to know each one of you. Take the final warm days to enjoy your surroundings, whether it's spending time in the parks or taking a drive to enjoy the season's change of colors. Most importantly, **act with integrity** for yourself and for our community. We are in this together and together we can make our community a better place.

Mary M. Tamez, Assessor

Consider These Handy Tips To Prepare Your Home For Winter

With winter rapidly approaching and with last years record breaking wind chills and temperatures (remember those minus 50 wind chills?), it's time to get prepared for winter. Here are just a few handy tips to prepare your home for winter.

- **Test that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order. Change batteries as needed.**
- Consider having you heating system cleaned and checked by a professional. (Most experts recommend having the system checked annually.)
- Check all the weather-stripping and caulk around windows and door frames for air leaks and re-caulk or replace weather-stripping, if necessary.
- Inspect windows for cracks, broken glass, or gaps. Repair or replace, if needed.
- Trim overgrown branches away from the house and electrical wires to prevent iced-over or wind-swept branches from causing property damage or a power problem.
- Remove any attached hoses and store them away for the winter to prevent cracks, preserve their shapes, and prolong their life.
- Shut off exterior faucets. Drain water from outdoor pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads to protect against pipe bursts.
- Inspect outdoor lighting around the property. Good illumination will help minimize the chance of accidents on icy walkways at night.
- Prepare the snow blower for the first snowfall by changing the oil and replacing the spark plug. Move it and shovels to the front of the garage or shed for easy access.
- Make sure you have an ample supply of ice melt or sand on hand for steps, walkways, and the driveway.
- Clean or replace the air filter in your furnace for maximum efficiency and improved indoor air quality. Clean your whole house humidifier and replace the evaporator pad.
- If you have an older thermostat, consider replacing it with a programmable unit to save on heating costs.
- Install foam-insulating sheets behind outlets and switch plates on exterior walls to reduce outside airflow.
- Make sure fans are switched to the reverse or clockwise position, which will blow warm air down to the floor for enhanced energy efficiency and comfort.
- Check for missing, damaged or warped shingles and replace as necessary before you get stuck with a leak.
- Clean gutters of any debris, clogged gutters can create ice jams and thawing ice and snow can back-up under shingles and eaves creating water damage.

Your Township Officials:

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Assessor

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Tracy Heldt

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George Obradovich

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Community Building Board of Managers

Ronald Mazurek

Teresa Peterson

Dan Waterman

Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Joe Burgess

News From the Community Building Board of Managers

Work continues on maintaining and improving the Washington Township Community Hall. Painting has been done on the ceiling and main walls upstairs as well as the kitchen. The next major project is to have the wooden floors refinished upstairs, which should be completed by the end of November, and to finish painting the rest of the upstairs.

We are excited to invite all of you to our 3rd Annual Holiday Bazaar being held on Saturday, December 7 from 11 am – 5 pm. We will have over 20 vendors/crafters participating. Some of the vendors already committed are Avon, Sic Home Décor (string art, wooden and canvas signs), KJ Resale, Lula Roe, Tastefully Simple and 627 Designs, so it will be a great opportunity to find some unique gifts for the holidays! St. Paul Lutheran Church - Beecher will also be serving lunch and have baked goods available for purchase. And there will be a special visit from Santa Claus from 1-3 pm, so bring the kids!

A reminder to Washington Township residents that the Community Hall is a great place to hold family events and parties. 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.

Washington Township Partners with Toys For Tots

Washington Township is once again 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, First Community Bank and Trust and Midland States Bank. 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 Toys For Tots program was founded in 1947 and is run by the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity located in Triangle, Virginia and all donations are tax deductible.

The collection boxes will be available now through December 5. To learn more about Toys For Tots visit them at toysfortots.org.

Construction has begun on the Beecher Fire Protection Districts new “Training Center” located at Indiana Ave and Town Center Road, in front of the Washington Township Center. Once completed, the training center will be one of only a few in the far south suburbs and will also be available for other local fire departments in our area.



Beecher Women’s Club to Hold 3rd Annual “VERY BAZAAR SALE”

The Beecher Women’s Club will host their 3rd annual “Very Bazaar Sale” on Sat., Nov. 2, from 9 AM – 2 PM. The sale will be held at Beecher Elementary School, 629 Penfield Street, Beecher, IL. Admission is free.



Bring your family and shop for home-baked goods, crafts, and many other vendors. A hot dog lunch will be served. Support the oldest philanthropic organization from our community, and shop for the holidays!

Washington Township Food Pantry

The Washington Township Food Pantry is open to any Washington Township individual 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.



As the holiday season approaches, we ask that you consider a donation to the pantry to help those, who are less fortunate, get through the holiday season. If you would like to help, items can be dropped off at the Washington Township Center on Monday through Friday from 9am - 3pm. The pantry also accepts cash donations that is used only to purchase items from the Chicago Food Depository.

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

We are PSC!

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Washington Township Senior News

14th Annual Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert

On December 10 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!

Please note this year's EARLIER start time.

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

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

Pizza & Movie!

On Saturday, January 18 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, "pie" for dessert. Seating is limited so please call our office at 708-946-2026 to reserve a spot.

In case of incimate weather, (blizzard, heavy snow or poor driving conditions) the movie will be held on January 25.



"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 6 at 7 pm. Entry to the concert is free 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 seat on the bus please call the Washington Township office at (708) 946-2026 Ext. 2 between the hours of 9am - 3pm.

Important dates for our Seniors:

November 13 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night
Refreshments will be served!

December 10 - 5:30 pm

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

January 18- 12:30 PM

Senior PIZZA & MOVIE MATINEE - Refreshments will be served!

Spring 2020 (date to be determined)

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



"On The Basis of Sex"

Felicity Jones stars as Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

November 13, 2019 @ 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 are open to the public and public commentary is welcome. Please call Supervisor Mike Stanula at 946-2026 if you need assistance.

- November 4, 2019
- December 2, 2019
- January 6, 2020
- February 3, 2020
- March 2, 2020
- March 23, 2020

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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 you're looking for? Contact Clerk Joe Burgess at (708) 946-2026 Ext 1176

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