



## Township To Receive American Rescue Act Funds

Through a state program, Will County has received \$134M in Covid relief funds and has allocated \$67,179 to Washington Township. Supervisor Stanula attended a session last June to learn about the program's compliance requirements. After the session, Stanula submitted an application for a new freezer for the township Food Pantry, installing "touch-less" water faucets and toilets controls at both the Washington Township Center and Community Hall and finally, upgrading the HVAC system at the Washington Township Community Building.

The Township received approval for the requested projects in February and will receive approximately **\$67,000** in grants to pay for the work. This is a reimbursement program that requires the recipient to pay for the project out of their own funds and then submit a reimbursement form. There was no indication how long the reimbursement process will take but the township has until 2026 to complete the projects. The townships 2023-2024 budget will include these expenditures.

Three bids are required for all projects over \$10,000 and they do not have to be sealed bids. The Community Building Board of Managers will begin investigating the options to upgrade the HVAC system and the Township Board will request bids / quotes for the freezer and bathroom updates. All work labor required will follow the provisions of the IL Prevailing Wage Act.

## Washington Township Center Roof To Be Replaced

The Washington Township Center is in need of a new roof over the townships 5,000 square foot office space. The building, which was built in 2002, was a result of the cooperation, vision and combined resources of the Village of Beecher, Washington Township Road District, Washington Township and the Beecher Community School District.

The current roof is comprised of metal roofing installed directly over metal roof supports. Over time, the metal roof has expanded and contracted and has started to leak in various areas. Supervisor Stanula, an architect by trade, has received a preliminary roofing proposal, which includes three options to repair the roof.

- "Option 1" is to repair any loose screws and then spray the existing roof with a sealer at a cost of \$48,000
- "Option 2" is to replace the roof with a "standing seam" metal roof at a cost of \$140,000
- "Option 3" is to remove the metal roof and install a shingle roof utilizing architectural shingles at a cost of \$53,000.

The Board discussed the options and spraying the roof with sealer was not considered a viable solution and the cost of the standing seam roof was excessive. A decision was made to have the roof replaced with a shingled roof.

Supervisor Stanula has written the bid specifications, and Bid Requests have been published in the local papers. The project will require sealed bids and the vendor must pay prevailing wages.

### ***Beecher Farmer's Market Returns***

The Beecher Farmer's Market returns for 2023 in the Beecher Village Hall parking lot at 625 Dixie Highway.

The first market will be held on Saturday, May 13 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***

### ***SAVE THESE DATES!***

✿ ***May 13 & 27***

✿ ***Jun 10 & 24***

✿ ***Jul 8 & 22***

✿ ***Aug 12 & 26***

✿ ***Sep 9 & 23***

✿ ***Oct 14 & 28***

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## 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. Please read through this issue of your Township newsletter, the next few months are going to be very busy and I don't want anyone to miss out.

A while back I was catching up on some reading and I came across an article about the state symbols of Illinois. Many of these symbols are all around you and I bet you didn't realize it. Here are just a few that you can impress your friends and family with your knowledge of Illinois. Everyone should know our State Slogan....Land of Lincoln. Of course, even though Abe was born in Kentucky, grew up in Indiana and did not settle in Illinois until his early 20's, this is still the Land of Lincoln. The State Bird....easy the Cardinal, but six other states also have the Cardinal as their state bird. How about the State Pie...one of my favorite pies, pumpkin pie, did you know that the state of Illinois is the pumpkin capital of the world! Here are a couple of unusual ones: the State Snack food is....popcorn. The State Dance is believe it or not.....the Square Dance, this was signed into law in 1990 as the American folk dance of Illinois. State Exercise...cycling (that's bicycles) there are hundreds upon hundreds of bike trails and roads throughout Illinois, this includes Washington Township. State Insect...the Monarch Butterfly, we have all seen them and did you know that after spending the summers here hanging around milkweed they migrate to Mexico. I am sure if you have ever fished in a lake or pond you have caught the State Fish....yes a Bluegill. We even have a State Reptile....a Painted Turtle.

This next one I thought for sure would be somewhere down south that do not have the wonderful winters that we have up here in Washington Township. Low and behold last summer on my back patio I found the Illinois State Amphibian which is the Eastern Tiger Salamander. First one I have ever seen. Here is another unusual one the Illinois State Pet are Shelter Cats and Dogs. Of course we have a State Song appropriately named "Illinois" and I have never heard it, have you? Ok here are some easy ones....State Animal, which is seen everywhere, the White-Tailed Deer. You may have this one in your yard or in your neighborhood the State Tree is the White Oak. Did you know that this tree typically lives between 350-400 years! The Illinois State Vegetable is of course Sweet Corn. We see acres upon acres of corn grown here every year. The vast majority of that corn is not Sweet Corn, but grown for industry and feed. The Illinois State Nickname is you guessed it, the Prairie State. This nickname goes way back to the mid eighteen hundreds and was given by the first settlers of Illinois.

Finally we have all seen the Illinois State Flag, which was selected as part of a design competition that had thirty-five designs submitted and was made official in 1970. There is a bill that has been introduced in the senate (SB1818) exploring recommendations and submissions for a design for a new Illinois State Flag. Just think someone from our Township could be the next Betsy Ross (kind of) of Illinois. Put pencil to paper and come up with our next state flag.

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## Clerk Burgess Receives ITASCSC "Elected Official of the Year"

In November of 2022, the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens Services Committees, (ITASCSC) selected Clerk Joe Burgess as their "Elected Official of the Year". The prestigious award is given yearly to an elected official in recognition of outstanding commitment to meeting the needs of older adults within the community.

Clerk Burgess has been serving as Clerk in Washington Township for 21 years. During those years, he has created their social media presence including the development of their website and the Township newsletter, both of which have won multiple awards from the Township Officials of Illinois. Some services Joe has added for Township residents include "Early Voting", free notary service and the availability of temporary handicap placards.

Joe's real passion, however, is with helping and providing programs for the seniors of the Township. Since 2009, he's been the driving force and architect of a multitude of senior programs and activities like movie nights, breakfast events, holiday dinners, flu shot clinics and senior seminars. He works behind the scenes to coordinate programs, solicit donations, advertise them and then attends nearly every event. Congratulations to Clerk Burgess on receiving this award!

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- \* **June 2-3** - Beecher Chamber of Commerce Garage Sale Days
- \* **June 30 - July 4** - Annual Beecher “4th of July” Celebration at Firemen’s Park. Car raffle, your chance to win a 2023 Ford Escape. Drawing on July 4, at 11 PM
- \* **July 4 @ 8 AM** - Freedom 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Beecher Lion’s Club
- \* **Concert Series in the Park** - Sponsored by the Village of Beecher and Washington Township!

**Washington Township Partners with Village for Concert in The Park Series**

Washington Township has committed to partner with the Village of Beecher for this summer’s “Concert in The Park” series. The village currently offers youth programs through the Beecher Youth Commission and the Township provides many senior programs throughout the year. The Board believed there was an opportunity to offer something for the other residents in the township and working with the village on the concert series was advantageous for both entities.

The village and township have always enjoyed a good working relationship and are excited about this new partnership. The tentative schedule for this year is listed below!

**CONCERT in THE PARK**

**PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE FOR 2023**  
*(details subject to change)*

- ☀ **June 3 (Saturday) / Iron Horse / 6-9 p.m.**
- ☀ **June 18 (Sunday) / Shout Section Big Band  
1-4 p.m.**
- ☀ **July 1 (Saturday) / Infinity / 8-11 p.m.**
- ☀ **August 6 (Sunday) / The E-Z Tones Polka  
3-6 p.m.**
- ☀ **Aug 26 (Saturday) / Big Dog Mercer Band  
7-9 p.m.**
- ☀ **September 2 (Saturday) / Maggie Speaks  
6-9 p.m.**

***Beecher Fire District Offers Senior Presentation***

On April 25, at 9:30 am , the Beecher Fire Protection District in corporation with Washington Township will host a free one-hour presentation for older adults on fire and fall prevention called “Remembering When™”. The presentation will be held at the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL. All senior citizens from the area are welcome to attend.

Older adults are at a higher risk of fire and falls. The "Remembering When™" program, developed by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), teaches older adults how to protect themselves from fires and falls.

Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be raffled off at the end of the presentation.

***See our flyer on page 5 for more information!***



**Your Township Officials:**

- **Supervisor Mike Stanula**
- **Clerk Joe Burgess**
- **Assessor Pat Peters**
- **Highway Commissioner Mike Smith**
- Trustees**
- **Tracy Heldt**
- **Mark Herlitz**
- **George Obradovich**
- **Teresa Peterson**

## Washington Township Senior News

### Spring Breakfast Scheduled!

On May 13 at 8:30 am, Washington Township will be sponsoring a free senior breakfast at the Beecher Amvet Hall. Keep the date open and call us if you need a ride as we will be happy to assist you.

### Assessment Freeze Help Offered on May 25

Assessor Pat Peters has announced that the Will County Supervisors of Assessment's Office will be offering assistance to Washington Township residents on **May 25 from 10 am to 2 pm** to assist seniors in completing their exemption forms. Along with Pat, Will County officials and former Assessor Mary Tamez will be assisting with the application process. No appointments are necessary and residents will be assisted on a first come first serve basis.

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. **For more information please see the flier on page 5 of this newsletter.**

### Beware of IRS Phone Scams

With the 2022 tax season nearly over, the IRS reminds seniors to remain alert to aggressive and threatening phone calls by criminals impersonating IRS agents. The callers claim to be IRS employees and sound very convincing but are **NOT**.

#### The truth is the IRS or its authorized agencies will NEVER:

- **Call** to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. The IRS does not use these methods for tax payments. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes.
- **Threaten** to immediately bring in local police or other law enforcement groups to have the taxpayer arrested for not paying.
- **Demand** that taxes be paid without giving the taxpayer the opportunity to question or appeal the amount owed.
- **Ask** for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

#### If you ever receive one of these calls, REMEMBER:

**Never give out personal information and hang-up immediately!**



### SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT

**“A Man Called Otto”  
Starring Tom Hanks!**

**May 17, 2023 @ 6:30 PM**

Washington Township Center  
Refreshments will be served.

### Important dates for our Seniors:

#### April 25 - 9:30 AM

Remembering When™ presentation at the Township Center.

#### May 13 - 8:30 AM

Senior Fall Breakfast at the Beecher Amvet Hall.

#### May 17 - 6:30 PM

Senior Movie Night - Come and watch **“A Man Called Otto”**. Refreshments will be served!

#### May 25- 10AM - 2PM

Senior Assessment Freeze Assistance Program

#### June 14 - 6:30 PM

Senior Movie Night - Come and watch a movie with us! Refreshments will be served!

#### Aug 23 - 6:30 PM

Senior Movie Night - Come and watch a movie with us! Refreshments will be served!

### Senior Bus Trips! Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

- **May 30 - Joliet Slammers Baseball**
- **June 20 - Chicago White Sox vs. Texas Rangers**

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



### Community Hall News!


The Washington Township Community Hall has been a busy place! From virtually being shut down during the most challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, practically every weekend and several weeknights are now booked for the next few months!

However, the Hall continues to accept rental applications from any Washington Township resident. 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.


Due to the increased use and condition the Hall has been left in after various functions, we have started a Cleaning Deposit Policy as of February 1, 2023. There is a refundable \$100 Cleaning Deposit due at the time of booking. The deposit is fully refunded provided all items on the clean-up checklist are completed and after the building is found to be clean and restored to orderly condition with no damages. We have also started using 2-part signature forms explaining the Rental and Cleaning Deposit Policies so that everyone is fully aware of the expectations prior to renting the hall.

Contact information and the full Rental and Cleaning Deposit policies can also be found on the Washington Township website under "Township Community Bldg" at [washingtontownshipil.com](http://washingtontownshipil.com).


The Washington Township Community Hall Board of Managers (Dan Waterman, Teresa Peterson, Stacy Mazurek) want to thank the Beecher community for its continued support and wish everyone a healthy and happy Spring and Summer!



**Remembering When™**  
A FIRE AND FALL PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS



Presented by:  
Beecher Fire Protection District & Washington Township




Join us for **Remembering When™** a fire and fall prevention presentation for older adults!

**DATE:** APRIL 25

**TIME:** 9:30 AM

**WHERE:** Washington Township Center



*Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be raffled off at the end of the presentation.*



THE WILL COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS OFFICE INVITES YOU...

**2023 EXEMPTION EVENT**

**Come see one of our exemption specialists to assist you with:**

- **Low Income Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze**- total household income of \$65,000 or less
- **Senior Homestead**- 65 years and older
- **Disabled Person**
- **Disabled Veteran**- service connected



**WASHINGTON TWP**  
30200 TOWNCENTER DR  
BEECHER, IL 60401

**MAY 25, 2023**  
**10 AM - 2 PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 815-740-4648 OR VISIT [WWW.WILLCOUNTYSOA.COM](http://WWW.WILLCOUNTYSOA.COM)

**Washington Township would like to THANK all of our businesses that advertise in our newsletter. Please patronize our advertisers as they have shown a commitment to support your Township! Their advertising helps keep the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter to a minimum!**

## *The Kicking it Back Center Now Open in Beecher*

The Kicking It Back Center recently celebrated its Open House on March 1, 2023.

Kicking It Back, Inc., located at 522 Gould Street in Beecher is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of young people and senior citizens through mentoring, sports, exercise, activities, education and fellowship. Since their founding, Kicking It Back has served over 700 children and young adults and typically serve between 50 and 60 youth each year with a staff of many dedicated volunteers. The organization is fully funded through donations and fund raising activities.



Established in 2006, Kicking It Back was founded by Beecher resident Juan Hernandez, who is a 7th degree black belt in Shorei Ryu karate, world karate champion, five-time National Karate Champion and has received numerous other awards and accolades. Hernandez is also the founder of Alicia's House, which is one of the largest food pantries in the south suburbs and the highly successful Police and Kids Together (PAKT) Program. Students of Hernández's Martial Arts Program have won three World Championships and 75 National Championship Titles with the World Karate Council, American Karate Association and the North American Sport Karate Association. In 2021, three students from the program attended the World Karate Championships, winning one gold medal, five silver medals, and one bronze medal for Team USA. Returning in 2022, two students went to Ireland and won two gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal for Team USA.

Kicking It Back's new 11,000 square foot facility now serves as the home to their Martial Arts and PAKT programs, which used the Washington Township Community Building for their programs for many years. Because this building offers more space and due to the need for additional services in our area, Kicking It Back has now added Meemaw's Cozy Corner (located in the same building) for senior programs. Current senior programs, include free exercise classes every Monday & Wednesday from 10:30 - 11:30 am, Bunco on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (1 - 3 pm) and Bingo on the 3rd Wednesday of the month (1 - 3 pm) and more activities being added soon. Visit them on Facebook for more information.

Kicking It Back provides youth and senior programs, **at no cost**, to residents of Beecher, Crete, Steger, Momence, Monee, Peotone, University Park, Grant Park, South Chicago Heights and the surrounding areas.



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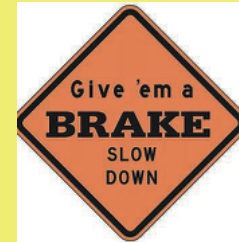
**UPCOMING TOWNSHIP ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS for 2023**

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

- ◆ **Tar & chip Ashland Ave south of Indiana Ave**
- ◆ **Tar & chip Brunswick Road**
- ◆ **Tar & Chip State Line as needed**
- ◆ **Preparing Corning Road for resurfacing from Stoney Island to Yates**

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](http://www.washingtontownshipil.com)

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President  
 Dave Miramontes  
 Mon-Fri 7:30-5:00  
 Sat 7:30-3:00

**Catholic Charities Satellite Office Now Open in Washington Township**

Catholic Charities has opened a satellite office at the Washington Township Center. A representative is 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)



**Springtime Means Planting Season - Safety Tips for Sharing the Road with Farm Equipment**

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 five 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. **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 overturning.
5. **Watch for flashing amber lights** - This type of light often marks the top, far right and left of farm equipment. Also watch for reflective tape marking extremities and sides of equipment.



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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