



## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### Township Joins Will-Ride Offers Transportation Options

On December 10, 2015 the Washington Township Board voted to join Will County’s Will-Ride transportation service. The township had been considering the Will-Ride service for several months but after losing an annual transportation grant from Northeastern IL Area on Aging, the board determined it was time to make the move to Will-Ride for trips outside of Washington Township. The township will continue to run its own Dial-a-Ride service for trips within Washington Township on a weekly but limited basis.

Like the township’s Dial-a-Ride service, Will-Ride is also a part of the Pace system but has qualified for Area on Aging as well as several other transportation grants, which will help to reduce the overall ride cost for the township even further. Will-Ride will also allow qualified residents to take advantage of the entire Pace transportation system, which would allow a person to board in Washington Township and travel all over Chicagoland and parts of northwest Indiana. Will-Ride is currently providing service to Crete, Frankfort, Peotone, Monee and Will Townships.

Senior citizens (60 years or older) or disabled residents will qualify for Will-Ride but MUST register for the service through the Washington Township office. Currently, the Will-Ride service can only be used for medical appointments and only serves points outside of Washington Township. Once registered, residents can call the county’s “Call Center” at (800) 244-4410 between the hours of 6 AM to 5 PM to schedule their trip. A 24-hour notice up to 7 days advance notice is required. Will-Ride buses operate Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM with no weekend or holiday service.

The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service will operate every Wednesday between the hours of 9 AM to 1:30 PM and only within Washington Township. To schedule a ride please call the Washington Township offices at (708) 946-2026. The Dial-a-Ride service is only available for senior citizens and disabled residents.

The Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service started in June 2008 and originally serviced residents of Washington Township. After Eastern IL Senior Services closed, the township was asked to expand the service and at one time serviced all of eastern Will County with all participating townships contributing their share of the costs. The township also qualified for many transportation grants at that time. From 2008 through January 2016, the Washington Township Dial-a-Ride service provided exceptional service while providing over 38,000 trips to local residents.



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## Electronics Recycling Update from Supervisor Mike Stanula...

OK here is the latest update on residential electronic recycling. You may or may not have known that a number of electronics have been banned from landfills since January 1, 2012. Here is the "short list":

Televisions, Monitors, Printers, Computers (laptops, notebooks, tablets desktops), Keyboards, Fax Machines, Videocassette Recorders, Portable Digital Music Players, DVD Players, Video Game Consoles, Small Scale Servers, Scanners, Electronic Mice, Digital Converter Boxes, Cable Receivers, Satellite Receivers, DVD Recorders, Cell Phones, PDA's, Computer Cable and Zip Drives.

So if it's against the law to throw those items in your weekly garbage (in fact refuse companies will not even take them) what are you supposed to do? Well for a number of years the Washington Township Center was a designated drop off location for residential electronic recycling, but never allowed commercial or business electronic recycling. Our location was sponsored by Will County who in turn contracted with an independent vendor that packaged, loaded, hauled away and recycled the electronics. The 'vendor' has terminated their contract with the county and as of March 1st, 2016 all the electronic recycling drop off locations have closed in the county. This of course includes Washington Township. We have returned our electronic recycling trailers and have posted signs that indicate that the electronic recycling is "Permanently Closed" and have installed cameras to monitor the area.

This is quite frustrating to say the least, not only for our residents but also for our township and county. I have spoken with the county a number of times and we tried to come to a solution. The county wanted us to take on a larger burden for the recycling. This would involve hiring extra employees just for recycling as well as dedicating a larger area to accommodate a large semi-trailer which would need to be moved every 2 weeks or so. The Washington Township Center was not designed as a staffed recycling center and we could not accommodate the extra burden. As it turns out, all of the electronic sites in Will County felt the same way and as a result all of the sites have been closed.

The county then approached local municipalities (villages, towns and cities) with the assumption that the municipalities have a larger support staff and possibly larger areas for staging and storage. To make a long story short, Will County has negotiated a one day a week drop off location. The City of Lockport has agreed to be this drop off site. This will be one day a week each week for a 4-5 hour window on that day. The county will supply 2 workers, check ID's for residency and then sort and box up the recyclables. Lockport will then provide manpower to load the trailers up. This program will hopefully start this late spring or early summer. The program will be on a trial basis and if it all works out, more drop off locations will be added.

I have had discussions with the Village of Beecher about this new program and agreed in theory that if the satellite program is successful, Washington Township would consider becoming a one day a week Electronic Recycling drop off location with both the village and the township sharing in the burden for a successful program. Nothing will happen until this pilot program in Lockport is proven, however. So until then, remember all the fond memories you had with your old TV or computer and keep those memories alive just a little while longer by holding on to those items until they can be disposed of properly. Keeping Beecher *beautiful* is one of the things that make this a great place to be!



**PLEASE NOTE: The township will continue to offer paper, plastic, cardboard, books and clothing / shoe recycling at the Washington Township Center!**

### Trustee Ted Deery Resigns - George Obradovich Appointed To Fill Vacancy

Theodore “Ted” Deery has served as a Washington Township trustee for the past 14 years and before his tenure as trustee he served as a member of the Township Planning and Zoning Commission. He also helped initiate, FOOS (Friends Of Open Space), which was organized to try to secure open space for future generations. Ted was instrumental on many key decisions concerning Washington Township and its citizens. This last January, Ted made the decision to end his tenure as township trustee so he could spend winters in sunny Florida. He believed that spending that much time away from his township duties would not be true to his elected position.

Illinois Township statutes allows up to 60 days for the Township Supervisor to appoint a successor, with Board approval, to fill out the term of a vacancy. A number of suggested candidates were brought to my attention. At the March board meeting, I presented George Obradovich for Board approval. He was unanimously approved by the Board. George lives in town with his wife Penny, has served as Beecher School District Superintendent for many years and still actively volunteers in our community. I am very pleased that George will be on your Township Board and I know he will do a great job. And of course a big “Thank You” to Ted Deery for his many years of service because it’s people like Ted that make Beecher a great place to be!

### From Road Commissioner Jerry Meyer...

Spring is here. We had a very favorable winter if you are a snow plow driver, but not so much if you love to play in the snow. Now it is time for the construction season. We have plans to reseal over 5 miles of roadway in the township. By resealing, we will put a layer of tar and chip over the existing roadway. We also plan on putting two layers of tar and chip on Corning Road between Cottage Grove and Stoney Island. We finished the base work and dug out the bad parts of the road last fall and then applied over 8000 tons of stone to the road. We also improved drainage throughout the mile of road. We did all the work with our own employees. I would like to thank all the residents living and traveling on this road for being patient and understanding during the construction period. It was very helpful.

#### A few facts about the road district:

- We maintain over 71 miles of roadway in the Township
- Out of the 71 miles, 65 miles are hard roads (either tar and chip or blacktop) 5 miles are gravel roads and ½ mile is dirt road.
- Washington Township is the second largest township in Will County, just under Crete Township with 81 miles of road.
- Our annual tax income is \$528,000.
- With this tax money, we have to maintain and construct all of our roadways, bridges and ditches
- The Washington Township Road District did NOT raise the tax levy this year



Corning Road Ditch Work

- Out of your tax bill, the Washington Township Road District receives about 6% of what you paid.
- To blacktop over tar and chip costs about \$150,000 per mile
- One mile of tar and chip costs \$12,500 for material. Washington Township employees along with Will and Peotone Townships supply the labor.
- We try to overlay a mile or two of road every 3 years. It takes the district that long to save up the money for that type of project.
- One ton of stone costs \$12.50 delivered
- One ton of cold patch costs \$110.00
- One ton of salt costs over \$63.00
- We try to do most things for the roads with our own equipment and labor.
- The Road District has 3 full time and 2 part time employees

As you can see, trying to balance the work of what has to be done and the funds needed to get the work done can be a daunting task. We try to get the most out of your tax money and are always looking for better ways to do it. I am looking for different grants that are available but have not found any for which our Township is eligible. I am only a phone call away if anybody has a lead on a grant or a better way of getting things done. My office number is 708-946-6459. Our hours are Monday thru Friday 7:00 am to 3:30 pm. If I am not in the office, I am on the roads so just leave me a message and I will call you back

Jerry K. Meyer  
Washington Township Road Commissioner



**As always, please give construction workers a brake. We all want to go home to our families at the end of the day.**

### Washington Township Food Pantry

The Washington Township Food Pantry has been blessed this holiday season by all your generous donations. It is wonderful to see our community come together to help those in need. I would like to say thank you on behalf of all the local families who have and will continue to benefit from your thoughtfulness.

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

Paul Goldrick - Trustee

#### Washington Township Fun Fact:

**Residents of Washington Township recycled 17,336 pounds of textiles (clothing & shoes) in 2015 saving enough water to supply 286 homes for one full year and avoided nearly 100 cubic yards of landfill waste!**



**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

**Early Voting at Washington Township**

Over 90 residents took advantage of Early Voting for the March 15 Illinois Primary. The Clerk’s office is proud to work with the Will County Clerk’s Office to offer this valuable service to our community.

The township will once again be offering Early Voting for the General (Presidential) Election to take place on November 8 of this year.

***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**



**Your Township Officials:**

**Supervisor**

Mike Stanula

[supervisor@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:supervisor@washingtontownshipil.com)

**Clerk**

Joe Burgess

[clerk@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:clerk@washingtontownshipil.com)

**Assessor**

Carol Ann Blume

[assessor@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:assessor@washingtontownshipil.com)

**Highway Commissioner**

Jerry Meyer

[commissioner@](mailto:commissioner@washingtontownshipil.com)

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

**Trustees**

Paul Goldrick

Mark Herlitz

Mike Mach

George Obradovich

**Office Coordinator / General Assistance**

Teresa Peterson

[transportation@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:transportation@washingtontownshipil.com)

**OR**

[ga@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:ga@washingtontownshipil.com)

Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Joe Burgess

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### Shout Section Big Band Returns to Washington Township

Washington Township is pleased to announce that Chicago’s premier big band, “Shout Section Big Band” will be back this year to perform at the Beecher Amvet Hall on June 4 at 7 pm.

The band is directed and managed by Beecher native Brett Dean, who has been involved in music his entire life and is currently the band director at St.Charles Middle School in St. Charles IL.

Staffed by some of the best musicians in the Chicago area, the evening will be a great night of music. The band specializes in jazz, swing, and big band music but also is comfortable playing more modern music. The band will bring 10 - 12 standout musicians to the event and is excited to be coming back to Beecher.



Last years event drew a large crowd and the band performed music for ALL ages. Don’t miss this opportunity to see some of Chicago’s best musicians put on a great show in a smaller setting.

The Amvet bar will be open and light snacks will be available.

The township is asking that people attending the concert consider a free will donation (non-refrigerated food or paper goods) and all donations will go directly to the Washington Township Food Pantry.

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Assistant Vice President

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Registered Representative

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**Springtime Means Planting 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 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 six 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. **Watch for 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 overturn.
5. **Watch for flashing amber lights.**  
This type of light often marks the far right and left of farm equipment. Also watch for reflective tape marking extremities and sides of equipment.
6. **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!

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- \* June 4 @ 7 PM - Shout Section Big Band @ Beecher Amvet Hall
- \* July 1 - 4 Beecher 4th of July Celebration at Firemen's Park
- \* July 4 @ 8 AM - Freedom 5K Run/Walk sponsored by the Beecher Lion's Club
- \* September 17 - Washington Township "Flu Shot" program. Receive a flu shot for a discounted rate or free if you bring your Medicare card (Open to all residents!)



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Slow Moving Vehicle**



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## *Washington Township Senior News*

Washington Township has finalized the dates and times for all remaining Senior Events for 2016. Upcoming events include a senior breakfast in September, our Annual "Holiday Dinner" in December and FOUR more movie nights before the end of the year.

To learn more about these events log on to our website or call the Washington Township offices at 708-946-2026.

### **Senior Bus Trips Planned**

We are pleased to announce the upcoming senior "bus" trip for those seniors looking to get out of the house and enjoy area attractions. There is only a limited amount of space and/or tickets for these events so don't be left behind. Call and reserve your tickets today!

### **White Sox baseball!**

June 15 - 7:00 pm - Watch the White Sox take on the Tigers at US Cellular Field. We sold out this trip last year so sign-up early! Tickets are \$25 each and include transportation.

### **Beware Of Senior Scams**

Spring always brings out those people looking to take advantage of our area seniors. Beware of people just "stopping" by that offer to fix your roof, siding or any other building project. Just say "no thank you" and ***NEVER*** let anyone into your house if you did not call them for an appointment.



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



### **Important dates for our Seniors:**

**May 18 - 6:30 PM**

Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch "Spotlight". Refreshments will be served!

**June 4 - 7 PM**

Shout Section Big Band at the Beecher Amvet Hall. Refreshments will be served!

**August 10 - 6:30 PM**

Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch a hit movie with us. Refreshments will be served!

**September 17**

Senior Breakfast and Flu Shot Program. Enjoy a free breakfast and schedule your "flu shot" at the same time!



**SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT**

**"SPOTLIGHT"**

Watch the Best Picture of 2015 starring Michael Keaton

**May 18, 2016 @ 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.

- May 2, 2016
- June 6, 2016
- July 7, 2016 - Thursday
- August 1, 2016
- September 8, 2016 - Thursday
- October 3, 2016
- November 7, 2016
- December 5, 2016
- January 2, 2017
- February 6, 2017
- March 6, 2017
- March 27, 2017



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

**Senior Assessment Freeze Help Offered on April 20**

Assessor Carol Ann Blume has announced that Staff from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments will be at the Washington Township Center on April 20 from 10 am to 2:00 pm to assist seniors in completing their exemption forms.

To qualify for the exemption you must be at least 65 years old with a total household income of LESS than \$55,000 and lived in your home on January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016. Bring a copy of the front page of your IRS 1040 Tax Form and your Social Security 1099.

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.

**Assessor's Office Hours**

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

**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**

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

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

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300 E. Clark Dr. - Mazon	801 State Hwy - Beecher

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