



## SPRING NEWSLETTER

### Township Senior Programs Reach Milestone

Washington Township has long championed senior programs for its residents and our seniors have responded. Since October of 2006, over **4,000** seniors have attended our various events.

The first notion of a township senior program was discussed in 1996 and the first true senior event, a safety seminar presented by the Will County Police, was held in April of 1997. At that time, the township worked closely with the “Beecher Area Seniors” and would help coordinate activities and all township seniors were invited to attend.

Today, the township sponsors approximately 10 major programs each year that include a: Senior Breakfast (twice a year), Movie Nights, Senior Holiday Dinner, and the “Senior” Prom. The township also sponsors a Flu Shot Program and schedules “Senior Bus Trips” that are designed for our seniors who want to go out to local daytime or evening activities.

The township board continues to be dedicated to our seniors and works diligently to provide these programs plus some new ones to our residents. Many volunteers working behind the scenes help plan these activities and also assist with set-up and decorating when these events take place. There are also many local businesses and individuals who donate items that are “raffled” off at the end of some of the events. The Board wants to publicly say “THANK YOU” to everyone who has contributed to the success of our programs.

While the township tends to Senior Programs, the Village of Beecher and the Beecher Youth Commission do a superb job scheduling programs for the youth of our community. For more information on these programs, contact the Village of Beecher or visit their website and click on their “Youth Commission Webpage” link.

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Visit us at: [washingtontownshipil.com](http://washingtontownshipil.com)

**From Supervisor Mike Stanula...**

Greetings to all and welcome to the Washington Township Spring Newsletter. I am sure you are with me in saying “good-bye” to one of the toughest winters in recent memory. The amount of snow and deep frost has taken a toll on our Township roads. Broken pavement and pot holes are Old Man Winters revenge on spring. Not to worry the Highway Department is working hard to overcome winter’s revenge and soon the roads will be ready to roll.

I would like to thank Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer and his crew for keeping our roads safe, despite this winter’s record setting snow fall. But spring is here with all the promises and anticipation that this time of year brings.

Take a moment to look thru our Newsletter or web page (and even Like us on Facebook) at all the events that the Township has planned for this spring and summer. Movies, concerts, horse racing and more. Come out and enjoy yourself, you deserve it.

Recycling. The township center is home to a number of recycling bins. Paper, glass, cardboard and plastics are to be put into the green bins. Electronics such as TV’s and computers are to be put into the two trailers. Clothing, shoes and books are to be put into the specially marked bins. A side note...in 2013 the Township recycled 12,623 pounds of clothing and shoes. Recycling is important and we encourage all our residents to be good stewards of the environment. Our recycling Center does not have the capacity to take items other than what is listed on the bins. That means no mattresses, no furniture, no paint, no tires and no garbage. Thank you for your cooperation.

Lastly, not only do the trees and flowers blossom as the temperature rise, but this time of year so do the number of phone scams and burglaries rise. Phone scams typically target our seniors. If you get a phone call from someone asking for money or credit/bank information be cautious or better yet just hang up. Burglaries can happen to anyone. Typical break-in times have been during daytime working hours. Keep valuables hidden and locked away. It’s a good idea to take pictures and/or video of valuables so you have a record for insurance purposes. Mostly be a good neighbor, be watchful and vigilant. Washington Township is a community of terrific people and watching out and helping each other is what we do best. Because this is a great place to be!

Michael E. Stanula- Supervisor

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**RECYCLING CENTER**

The Washington Township recycling collection center is open 7 days a week! Bring your recyclables to the north side of the the Washington Township Center located at 30200 Town Center Road in Beecher.

- **Paper, Cardboard, Plastic & GLASS**
- **Electronics Recycling**
- **Clothing Bins**



**Sorry NO BUSINESS electronics can be accepted.**

**From the Office of General Assistance**

General Assistance / Emergency Assistance is available to any township resident that is in need and meets the mandated criteria. To learn more please contact General Assistance Administrator Brooke Dyke at 708-946-2026 Ext 1173.

Brooke’s office hours are: Monday and Tuesday 9am-1pm & Friday 10am-12pm

You can also contact her at: [GA@washingtontownshipil.com](mailto:GA@washingtontownshipil.com)

**HELP US HONOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN**

Our “Service Stars” page on our website proudly displays the names of many of the dedicated men and women, who live in Washington Township, and are currently serving their country.

If you have a loved one or know someone who lives in our township and is serving in the military, please contact Clerk Joe Burgess to have their names added to our website. Please give us their name and branch of service and we can have them added to our website within 72 hours.

**Illiana Expressway Representative at Washington Township**

Mike Hansen, the Ombudsman for the Illiana Expressway project will be at the Washington Township Center on the last Tuesday of each month from 3 pm to 6 pm. Mr. Hansen will be available to discuss the Illiana Expressway project to residents looking for more information or who have may questions about the project.

Please note that this is NOT a “public meeting” but an opportunity to meet one on one on a first come first serve basis. For more information please call Washington Township at 708-946-2026.

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Recycling Center News

Trustee Kevin Boicken reported at the March meeting that some individuals have recently started using the recycling center to dump their personal garbage. Boicken told the board that township residents can easily fill the 5 onsite recycle bins in a week but lately the bins contain about 30% of non-recyclables. The center is not "manned" and is a valuable service to our residents and the board is now considering installing video cameras to police the site, which would be a cost to the tax payers. Boicken is also working on obtaining signage for the area.



Mattresses and used motor oil were recently dumped at the recycle center. Furniture, appliances, household items and used oils are **not** accepted at the recycling center.

Kevin also wanted to publicly thank Joe Gardner, Burke Ford and Chris Condit for recently volunteering their time to help clean up the area around the site!

**LITTLE PEOPLE'S PRE-SCHOOL**  
II

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**EYEGLASS SALE**

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With purchase of first pair of glasses or contact lenses.  
\*Additional terms apply

**Sanders Services**  
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**CLERK’S CORNER**

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
- Receive a FREE Senior ID Card
- 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

**REGISTER TO VOTE!**

The November General Election is just around the corner. Have you changed your address or name? If so, you must re-register to vote. Your VOTE can make a difference - exercise your right.

Please stop in our office to register! If you have any questions please contact us.



**Medical Closet**

The medical closet is available to any resident who is in need of medical equipment on a short term basis. If you need a wheelchair, walker, cane, crutches, shower chairs or other medical items please call our office to make arrangements to check out equipment.

**Disability Placards Available**

Did you know that if you become temporarily disabled due to surgery or another unforeseen condition, you are probably eligible to receive a “temporary” parking placard and we have them.

For more information please visit our website or call our office today.

**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](mailto:washingtontownshipil.com)

**Trustees**

Kevin Boicken

Ted Deery

Paul Goldrick

Mike Mach

**Transportation Director**

Teresa Peterson

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

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

**General Assistance**

Brooke Dyke

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

Newsletter Editor:

Clerk Joe Burgess

**ROAD DISTRICT NEWS FROM HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER JERRY MEYER**

Can you believe it? Spring is finally here! I thought the winter would never end, but for every season there is an end, and we are thankful a new season is beginning. With 70° days upon us, that is a 90° increase from some of the lows we endured this past winter. You have to love the changing of the seasons here in the Midwest.

First of all, I would like to THANK YOU for being so patient and understanding this year through one of the worst winters in history. The winter has been hard on all of the roads, as well as our equipment.

Here are just a few interesting facts from the winter of 2013-2014:

- Most of the Township plow drivers had an average of 200 hours of plow time
- A total of over 800 hours was spent removing snow
- Over 17,000 miles were put on the plow trucks
- Over 500 hours were put on the tractor and loaders
- Over 5,000 gallons of fuel were consumed at a cost of \$19,000
- \$30,000 of salt was used on the roads.

Now with spring here, we have to focus our efforts on road repairs. We are working diligently to stay on top of patching potholes and repairing the damage that was done with the plows. We have already used over 40 tons of cold-patch asphalt and will need much more. We will be working on all of the roads, attending to the worst ones first. For those roads that patching cannot fix, the only option is to rebuild them. The roads that are currently scheduled for major work include: Ashland Avenue, from Indiana Avenue south one half mile; and Corning Road from Cottage Grove to Stoney Island. For roads that have damaged sections, we will grind out the bad areas and add stone to create a better base. Later this year and after the base has settled these sections will be tar and chipped. The Township will repair as much as our budget allows. The cost of re-constructing one mile of road is over \$45,000 per mile, and that is with Washington Township employees doing all the work. As with everything, the costs go up each year. Due to budget restraints, there are no plans of upgrading existing stone roads to tar and chip.

(continued on page 7)





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**ROAD DISTRICT NEWS CONTINUED....**

I have one favor to ask ALL of you: when you see road work being done, please slow down and give the workers a BRAKE. All road workers want to go home at the end of their shift and they are working to improve the roads for you and to keep you as safe as possible.

Thanks to the extreme Midwest winter, all roads took a toll, whether it be State, County or locals roads, so you can expect repairs on all of the roads. Please keep a watchful eye on the road, and remember cell phone use MUST be "Hands Free", so please keep your hands on the wheel.

If you have any questions about the roads, please give me a call at the Washington Township office at 708-946-6459, and I will happy to speak with you. With that, have a safe spring and summer. Remember, the snow and cold will return in due time, so enjoy the warm sunshine!

Jerry K. Meyer  
YOUR Road Commissioner



A Road District employee is busy patching small holes on township roads. The severe winter took a huge toll on ALL roads throughout the state.

**From Assessor Carol Ann Blume...**

The Senior Freeze Forms have been mailed. If you did not receive a form and feel you are entitled to the exemption you can go on-line and print a copy or give me a call at 708-231-1175 and request a form. Your total household income must be less than \$55,000, which includes social security income, wages, interest & dividends, annuities, pensions, railroad retirement benefits and farm income. Go to: [www.willcountysoa.com](http://www.willcountysoa.com) and click on "forms" on the left hand side.

The senior exemption has been increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000. That amount will be noted on your 2014 tax bill that you have just received or will be receiving shortly after you read this newsletter.

Assessed values for lots and buildings have decreased by 6% so any increase in your tax bill is due to the tax rate which your assessor has no control over.

An FYI for Pheasant Lake Estate property owners...you are located in CRETE TWP. Any questions regarding your property should be directed to Crete Township at 672-8291.

# Washington Township Senior News

## Senior Bus Trips Planned

Trustee Ted Deery has announced upcoming "Senior Bus Trips" for the coming months. These bus trips are open to all seniors and ticket / seating availability is limited so call the township office and sign up early!

🕒 June 18 - A Night at Balmoral Park! We had such a great response to this event last year we had to "do it again". Your ticket includes: transportation, admission, free program, pizza, snacks, a picture of our group with the race winner, a race named in our honor and more...

🕒 July 21 - White Sox Baseball - (Monday night)  
Cheer for the White Sox as they take on the Kansas City Royals. Ticket price includes admission and transportation!

🕒 September 17 - Barn Quilt Tour and Luncheon  
Join us for a bus tour of the Kankakee Barn quilts located throughout the County. Lunch will be at Ryan's Pier in Aroma Park on the shore of the Kankakee River. Transportation is Free and lunch is on your own. The bus will leave at 11 AM.

For more information and ticket prices please call us at 708-946-2026.

### Mark you calendar - May 23 - 6:30 PM



Our "Senior" Prom - "The Great Gatsby" - at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. Enjoy music, food and a cash bar.



### SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT

#### "Saving Mr. Banks"

Starring Tom Hanks & Emma Thompson

May 21, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Washington Township Center  
30200 Town Center Road  
Beecher

Coffee and Bakers Square pie will be served.

### Important dates for our Seniors:

#### May 21 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch "Saving Mr. Banks" starring Tom Hanks. Refreshments will be served!

#### May 23 - 6:30 PM

The Senior Prom "The Great Gatsby" at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. Dress up, dance and enjoy the evening. Who will be this year's Prom King & Queen? Enjoy music, food and a cash bar will be available.

#### July 16 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch "Gravity" starring Sandra Bullock. Refreshments will be served!

#### Sept. 17 - 6:30 PM

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

#### September 2014 (date to be determined)

Senior Breakfast - Free breakfast @ Cardinal Creek Golf Course and special presentations designed for our Seniors!

Call 946-2026 for more information OR visit us online for our complete calendar of events!



***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

*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 Newsletter!! Their support helps offset the costs to produce our Township Officials of IL Award winning newsletter!*

**UPCOMING TOWNSHIP 2014-15 BOARD MEETING DATES**

The Washington Township Board meets on the FIRST Monday of every month (except on holidays) 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.

- June 2, 2014
- July 7, 2014
- August 4, 2014
- September 4, 2014 - Thursday
- October 6, 2014
- November 3, 2014
- December 1, 2014
- January 4, 2015
- February 2, 2015
- March 2, 2015
- March 30, 2015



**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)

**Assessor's Office Hours**

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



**TOI  
Newsletter  
of the Year!**

## Need A Ride? Call about our Dial-A-Ride Program

### Hours of Operation:

Schedule appointments between the hours of 9:30 am to 1:00 pm,  
Monday-Friday (24-48 hour notice is required)

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HERE IS YOUR 2014 SPRING EDITION OF THE  
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