



SPRING NEWSLETTER

Township Schedules Community Event

Shout Section Band to Perform on June 20

Washington Township has scheduled Chicago’s premier big band, “Shout Section Big Band” to perform at the Beecher Amvet Hall on June 20 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.

The Shout Section band burst on to the scene in 2007. Since then, they have been entertaining audiences at swing dances, city concerts, school clinics, weddings and corporate events all over the Midwest. Staffed by some of the best musicians in the Chicago area, the evening should be a great night of music.

The band specializes in jazz, swing, big band 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 after many years.

The township Board was looking for an event that would replace the Senior Prom, which has seen declining attendance, and decided to open the free event to all Washington Township residents.

Clerk Joe Burgess said “We really wanted to replace the Senior Prom with another quality senior event, but the Board determined that this event really has a broader appeal and they opened it up to everyone”. The Amvet bar will be open and light snacks will be available.

The township will be accepting free will donations and all donations will go to the Washington Township Food Pantry.



Shout Section Big Band Performs



Brett Dean

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From Supervisor Mike Stanula...

Not to state the obvious but we live in the Midwest so one of the things that makes winter tolerable is the fact that it makes the anticipation of Spring that much more special. But I really hope that by the time you read our Township Newsletter spring is in full swing and winter is well behind us.

Even with the emergence of warmer weather the reminders of Old Man Winter will still be hanging around for longer that we want it to. The deep freeze that we have had this past season has taken a toll on our Township roads. Until the frost is completely out of the ground the potholes will still be blooming on our roads. Rest assured that the Highway Department will do their very best to patch and repair our roads.... so please be patient.

You may have heard recently, that Cardinal Creek Golf Course has closed. Why is this important to the people of Washington Township? Well, sometimes it is forgotten that the Village of Beecher is within the boundaries of Washington Township. What's more important is that we are a Community. We are all neighbors, whether we live in the country or in town we are still a Community. This beautiful 200 acres of land in the heart of the Township has been Open Space since before the first settlers of Beecher came here to put down their roots and call this Home.

I am not sure what the future has in store for this Community Asset. Know that the Village and the Township are on the same page and we agree that this asset needs to remain a part of our Community. Whether it continues to be a golf course, a park or just Open Space it is something that we just cannot afford to lose. Open Space is what balances our lives, clears our minds and keeps us centered. Because it is one of the things that makes this a great place to be!

Senior Assessment Freeze Help Offered

Assessor Carol Ann Blume has announced that Staff from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments will be at the Washington Township Center on April 22 from 9:30 am to 1:00 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 live in your home.

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.

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Washington Township Transportation Assists “ Super-Fan”

Dennis Bakhaus has been a lifelong resident of Beecher and a supporter of Beecher High School basketball for over 50 years.

Unfortunately, Dennis has been battling health issues and has been living at Beecher Manor and hasn't been to a BHS basketball game in 16 months. Family and friends rallied around Dennis and surprised him with a trip to the game on February 27, where he was presented with flowers and a warm welcome from the crowd.

Washington Township Transportation Director Teresa Peterson was contacted and asked if the township could assist with transportation. Although the township service does not run during the evening, Teresa contacted volunteer driver John Mickiewicz, who gladly took time from his evening to transport Dennis to and from the game.

Washington Township was proud to assist with Dennis' return to the gym and would like to publicly say “thank you” to John for volunteering his time to help Dennis.



Super-Fan Dennis Bakhaus

Washington Township Food Pantry Ready To Help

Trustee Paul Goldrick recently reported that Washington Township Food Pantry assisted 424 households and over 1,200 people in 2014. The pantry received cash donations totaling over \$500 and received over 30,000 pounds of food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository and countless food donations from caring residents, businesses, local food drives, groups and organizations. **(Thank you all!)**

Since moving the pantry from the Washington Township Center to the Beecher Community Building two years ago, the township has added refrigeration equipment and regularly offers frozen and refrigerated products for the many people utilizing the pantry. The pantry is also stocked with toiletries and other non-food items.

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 Paul at (708) 516-2594 for additional details or if you need assistance. Many thanks to the volunteers who assist at the pantry!

BAHLMAN	
TIRE & SERVICE CENTER	
548 S. Dixie Highway	
Beecher, IL 60401	
(708) 946-9770	
Lance Saller	Doug Saller

BEECHER HARDWARE

Washington Township Rural Neighborhood Watch Program

The Washington Township "Neighborhood Crime Watch" program for the rural residents of the township is up and running.

The email-based program, which is overseen by volunteer Diane Bultema, will alert residents of any recent crime activity that has occurred in the township's rural areas. Emails will be sent as necessary and will include pertinent information including time, dates, and location of the reported criminal activity.

To join the "Crime Watch" program contact Diane at: Crimewatch@washingtontownshipil.com and include your name and street address. Only residents of Washington Township will be eligible for the program and ALL email addresses will be protected and only used for crime watch activity. Only residents of Washington Township will be allowed to join this program and all addresses will be verified.

HELP US HONOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN

Our "Service Stars" website page proudly displays the names of many of the dedicated men and women, who live in Washington Township, and who 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 email Clerk Joe Burgess at clerk@washingtontownshipil.com to have their name added to our website. Please give us their name and branch of service and we can have them added to our website within 48 hours.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- * May 2 @ 8:30 am - Senior Breakfast at the Beecher Amvet Hall
- * May 20 @ 6:30 pm - Senior Movie Night at the Washington Township Center - "The Imitation Game"
- * June 20 @ 7:00 pm - "Shout Section Big Band" concert at the Beecher Amvet Hall - Open to all Washington Township residents
- * July 4 @ 8:30 am - Freedom 5K Race/Walk (starts at Fireman's Park) - sponsored by the Beecher Lions Club. Sign up online at: signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/105207
- * July 22 @ 6:30 pm - Senior Movie Night at the Washington Township Center - "McFarland USA"
- * August 1 - "Tractors for a Cure" at fireman's Park - visit their website for details!
- * August 22 - Beecher Lion's Club Beef Roast at Fireman's Park

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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

General Assistance Announces New Hours

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 **NEW** office hours are: Monday 9am -1 pm & Wednesday and Thursday 9am - 12pm

You can also contact her at:
GA@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.

A Township Assessor is an elected official who determines the value of property for tax purposes. The Assessor does not estimate or compute the Real Estate Taxes, does not send out Tax Bills, and does not collect Property Taxes. The Assessor is responsible for the fair and equitable appraisal of every parcel of property in their jurisdiction

Your Township Officials:

Supervisor

Mike Stanula
supervisor@washingtontownshipil.com

Clerk

Joe Burgess
clerk@washingtontownshipil.com

Assessor

Carol Ann Blume
assessor@washingtontownshipil.com

Highway Commissioner

Jerry Meyer
commissioner@washingtontownshipil.com

Trustees

Ted Deery
Paul Goldrick
Mark Herlitz
Mike Mach

Transportation Director

Teresa Peterson
transportation@washingtontownshipil.com

General Assistance

Brooke Dyke
ga@washingtontownshipil.com

Newsletter Editor:
Clerk Joe Burgess

ROAD DISTRICT NEWS FROM HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER JERRY MEYER

Spring is here -- another winter has passed. Even though this winter wasn't as bad as last year, we did have our share of cold and snow. In the Midwest it seems we have only two road seasons: construction season and repair season. We are in the repair season now, trying to fix all of the potholes. We have used over 65 tons of cold patch this winter, filling by hand - one pothole at a time. We don't count them like the big city, but we do have enough of them to fill. Good weather permitting, we will continue patching until they all get filled.



That brings us to the construction season: YES! Here are some projects we have scheduled for the year: Corning Road from Cottage Grove east to Stoney Island is scheduled for completion this year with 10 inches of stone and two layers of tar and chip. The base of the road will be leveled and

ditches pitched for drainage. During that time the roadway might be closed in sections, but all residents living in this area will be able to get out and return to their homes. Until the road is completed, thru traffic should avoid that area of Corning Road this summer. Sorry for the inconvenience and timing to finish this project but last summer's wet weather caused the delay in getting the road completed. We have also budgeted to reseal five miles of other roads, but we haven't determined which roads will be addressed because it will depend on how they survived the spring thaw.

I do have a favor to ask all of you: when you see road work being done, please slow down and give us a BRAKE. All road workers want to go home at the end of their shift. These dedicated workers are out there to improve the roads for you and keep you as safe as possible. This year, the Midwest winter took a toll on all state, county and local roads, so you can expect road repairs just about everywhere you travel. Please keep a watchful eye on the road and remember: state law requires hands **free** on the cell phone, **no texting** while driving, and keep your hands on the wheel.

If you have any questions about the roads, please give me a call at the Township Office at 708-946-6459 and I will try to answer your questions. Have a safe spring and summer, and remember, the snow and cold will return in due time. Enjoy the warm summer.

Jerry K. Meyer
Highway Commissioner



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!!

Local Youth Group “Cleans Up” Recycling Center

On Sunday, March 22, the Zion Lutheran Youth Group put their efforts towards cleaning up the Washington Township recycling area including the surrounding grounds and farm fields. The group spent many hours working in cold weather and thawing ground picking up bags of waste.

The center includes five recycle bins that fill very quickly and are dumped by lifting the bins over the garbage truck and allowing the items to fall into the truck. Unfortunately, this method aided with any wind causes light objects to blow away from the truck and on to the surrounding grounds. The township has been offering the recycle service for many years and is constantly cleaning up around the area.

The Washington Township Board and staff would like to publicly thank the Zion Lutheran Youth Group for all their efforts and serving their community! You may recognize some of the members of the group who also spend their 4th of July holiday fundraising by selling pizza during the Beecher 4th of July Celebration.



Front row: Skyllar Johnson, Kaylee Anderson, Madison Gemo, Maggie Gaffney, Gracie Hitzelburger, Lucy Hitzelburger, Mia Dzienisiewicz, Emily Ramirez, Samantha Curtis
Back row: Ray Smith, Nate Smith, Garrett Short, Tim Sowins, Pastor Ron Rock, Jake Nordsell
Not pictured: Michael Barber, Bev Cooper, Barb Harvey

Awesome Job!

RECYCLE NEWS:

The Washington Township Board will be installing new signage at the recycling center in an effort to better clarify what items the center accepts and where the electronics items are to be dropped off. The Board will also be addressing the need for more frequent pick-ups at the center. The recycling center is a result of the cooperation between Will County and Washington Township.

RECYCLING CENTER INFORMATION

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.

Please NO household trash, furniture, appliances, paint, construction materials, light bulbs, carpeting or used oil.



WE RECYCLE:

- **Paper, Cardboard, Plastic & GLASS**
- **Electronics Recycling**
- **Clothing, shoes**
- **Books**

Sorry NO BUSINESS electronics can be accepted.

Washington Township Senior News

Senior Breakfast - May 2 at the Amvet Hall

The spring Senior Breakfast will be held at the Beecher Amvet Hall, 532 Gould Street on May 2nd at 8:30 am.

The breakfast was rescheduled from March 28 after it was learned that Cardinal Creek Golf Course was closing and would no longer be available to host the event.

Please call the township office at (708) 946-2026 if you have any questions or would like to schedule transportation to the breakfast.



CALL 708-946-2026

Senior Bus Trips Planned

We are pleased to announce the upcoming senior "bus" trips for those seniors looking to get out of the house and enjoy area attractions during the upcoming months. 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!

"Barn Quilt Tour (Part-2)"

May 20 - Last fall, we saw many Barn Quilts but there's MORE to see. If you enjoyed last years tour, sign up for "Part 2".

White Sox baseball!

June 17 - 7:00 pm - Watch the White Sox take on the Pirates at US Cellular Field. We sold out this trip last year so sign-up early! (\$25 per ticket)



SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT

"The Imitation Game"

Academy Award nominated for Best Film.

May 27, 2015 @ 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 2 - 6:30 PM

Senior Breakfast - Free breakfast @ Beecher Amvet Hall and special presentations designed for our Seniors!

May 27 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night - "The Imitation Game"
Refreshments will be served!

June 20 - 7:00 pm

"Shout Section Big Band" at the Beecher Amvet Hall. Enjoy live performances of jazz, swing and big band music.

July 22 - 6:30 PM

MOVIE Night - Come and watch "McFarland USA" starring Kevin Kostner. Refreshments will be served!

Sept 30 - 6:30 PM

Senior MOVIE Night - Come and watch a recent hit movie on our big screen. Refreshments will be served!

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

Will County is Asking for Resident Feedback

Will County is in the process of preparing its 2015-2019 Five Year Consolidated Plan and 2015 Annual Action Plan. Will County residents are invited to attend two public hearings to assist in the development of these plans.

Hearings for municipal and citizen input will be held:

- Wednesday, April 15 at 10 am at the Frankfort Township Hall, 11000 W Lincoln Highway, Frankfort
- Friday, April 17 at 10 am at the Will County Office Building, 302 N Chicago St, Joliet

A separate public hearing to discuss Fair Housing Concerns will be held on

- Thursday, April 16 at 1:30 pm at the Will County Office Building, 302 N Chicago St, Joliet

The county would appreciate your input. If you would like to complete an online questionnaire please go to the following link: <https://surveymonkey.com/s/ConPlanResident>

If you have any questions please call (815) 774-7904 or email edunn@willcountylanduse.com

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 4, 2015
- June 4, 2015 (Thursday)
- July 6, 2015
- August 3, 2015
- Sept. 10, 2015 (Thursday)
- October 5, 2015
- November 2, 2015
- December 7, 2015
- January 4, 2016
- February 1, 2016
- March 7, 2016
- March 28, 2016



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

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

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- \$4 each way for residents who live in Washington Township and travel outside Washington Township
- \$4 each way for all other non-Washington Township riders

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Please call our Transportation Director Teresa Peterson, at 708-231-1172 for more information or to schedule a ride.

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