



Save Our Townships! State Looking to Eliminate Township Government!

In recent weeks there has been legislation introduced in Springfield that would once again try to abolish Township government.

We ask that you please take time out of your busy schedule to contact your legislature and talk to them about how important our township government is to you. Below is some general information about township government and just some of the services they provide.

We have 1426 Townships in Illinois that maintain over 72,000 miles of roads. That's more than 50% of all roads in Illinois! As like most townships in Illinois, Washington Township offers many other services than just road maintenance. We offer our residents:

- **Senior Programs & Activities**
- **Mental Health Program (with Beecher Fire District)**
- **Transportation (Will Ride & Dial-A-Ride)**
- **Food Pantry**
- **Medical Closet**
- **Handicap Placards**
- **Property Assessment**
- **General Assistance**
- **Early Voting**
- **Meeting Room for Local Groups**
- **Financial Assistance or sponsorships for Community Programs (Beecher Youth Commission, Beecher EMA, Concerts in the Park, 4th of July Celebration)**
- **Beecher Community Phone App and much more!**

Research shows that it would cost far more for another government (i.e. county highway) to provide the same level of service that townships provide! Some counties in central and southern Illinois cannot even maintain county roads and townships maintain the roads for them!

Here is the truth about township government!

- Township government is the most cost-efficient unit of local government and has the lowest number of full-time employees

- Lowest debt of all government
- Lowest expense per capita” - Any other form of government would not be able to provide the same level of service at this cost
- Townships account for only around 2% of the property tax bill statewide! These proposals will not solve the property tax problem in Illinois
- Township government is your closest form of government and is the most valuable to the residents in its area
- Township Officials are only a phone call away!

If you don't want to see Springfield, just take away your townships, without even letting you decide, please call your state senator and representative(s) and express your concerns before they vote on this! Don't let them abolish the only form of efficient government to try and "save money"! It will cost much more in the long run. As stated above, we are the most efficient with the lowest expense and debt. No other form of government can provide services at the costs that townships do!



Scan the QR Code to contact our representatives and tell them NO!

Washington Township welcomes home :

Specialist Connor Hoff!

Connor has spent the last year in Kuwait.



From Supervisor Mike Stanula

Hello Friends and Neighbors-

Welcome to the Spring addition of the Washington Township Newsletter. This newsletter, as you may guess is chocked full of useful information for you and your family, with up-and-coming activities, events and news you can use. I will keep my contribution short so as to leave room for all the valuable content in the pages within.

There is one piece of news that is on the horizon concerning your Township, however. You have heard the quote by Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg address of 1863, "... government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from this earth". A proposal has been presented by a legislator to streamline government, made in the form of a House Bill and a Senate Bill that would dissolve townships of 500 people or less (House Bill) and consolidate townships which are 5000 people or less (Senate Bill). What does this mean for our Township. Washington Township is over 5000 people so we would remain intact. BUT this is what would happen! Washington Township could be forced, for example, to absorb neighboring Will Township or Peotone Township (population approximately 4400). That means, general assistance, all roads and right of ways, snow plowing, zoning, senior and youth programs, assessments, buildings, etc. would fall under the umbrella of Washington Township. Additional labor would need to be employed, additional equipment purchased and services in general would suffer. All of this cost money, so taxes would need to increase. Does this make sense? It is not reducing government it is making government bigger. It would no longer be the government of the people, by the people, for the people. We as your Washington Township Board are against the proposed bills.

We need to keep Beecher a Beautiful place to Be!

"Girls on the Run" Event on May 17!

Beecher Elementary School is sponsoring their 2nd "Girls on the Run" program for girls in 3rd thru 5th grade. The program will conclude with a fun non-competitive 5K Celebration run or walk through the streets of Beecher on **May 17th at 8:30 AM**. The 5k will start and finish at the Beecher Elementary School.



"Girls on the Run" is a non-profit organization whose mission is to "inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running" and they "envision a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams."

Meeting in small teams, trained volunteer coaches inspire girls to build confidence through interactive lessons and physical activities. Lessons focus on building social, emotional and physical skills in participants while encouraging healthy habits for life. This culmination gives participants a tangible sense of accomplishment and inspires confidence that they can complete anything they set out to do.

This year's BES "Girls on the Run" coaches are Loren Assise, Nicole Tepper, Meghan Lause, Lauren Garza, Christy Cox, Sarah Wente, and Emily Beaulieu. The Beecher Lions Club will be assisting with the course setup and will provide volunteers on the course to keep the girls safe. **Please mark your calendars and come out and support these girls as they complete their goals!!**

Washington Township New Electronic Sign Now Available for Local Events

In late January, the township's new LED sign was installed on the corner of Indiana Ave and Town Center Road. The sign is now available to all non-profits that want to promote any community or fundraising events. This includes Fish Frys, Car Shows, Church Dinners, Food Pantries, Open Houses, etc. Business may also advertise any FREE community event they are sponsoring!

To place a message on the Board please email clerk@washingtontownshipil.com with your event details and any artwork or logo you would like added (if compatible). All sign board events will automatically be added to the phone app as well!

The Beecher Community Calendar phone APP is also available and offers the same information ALL on your phone and in one easy to find place. Email events to the same email as listed above or submit your event directly through the APP.



Washington Township Food Pantry Looking for Volunteers!

The Washington Township Food Pantry was established in 2009. During that time the pantry has served 1000's of people and has always been available to help because of our dedicated volunteers.

At this time, we are looking for volunteers to help us twice a month at the pantry located at the Washington Township Community Building located at **673 Penfield St in Beecher**. Volunteers should be able to lift 40 pounds, be able to walk up and down steps and be aware the pantry operates year round in all weather conditions. If you are interested please contact Tim at (815) 953-7067.

If you would like to donate to the food pantry, cash donations can be dropped off at the Washington Township Center during regular business hours and we will provide you with a receipt.

Beecher Youth Commission Kickoff to Summer June 7th



Spring is finally here and that means Summer is right around the corner! And with that, the Beecher Youth Commission will be hosting their annual Kickoff to Summer! This fun and free event will take place on June 7th from 1-4pm at Fireman's Park. You can expect entertaining activities such as kickball, bounce houses and face painting! The Lion's Club will also be generously offering FREE hot dogs, chips and water! Kids of all ages are sure to have a great time!

"Buddys" has also generously offered to host a fundraiser on May 29th! They will donate 20% of their sales that day to the BYC! Please be sure to patronize this establishment not only May 29th, but all year around. It is generosity from small business like "Buddys" that keep Beecher such a great place to live!

The Beecher Youth Commission meets every third Tuesday at 7:30pm in the village hall. Meetings are opened to the public and all are encouraged to attend. Volunteers are always needed for events! Questions? Reach out to beecheryc@gmail.com!

Catholic Charities Satellite Office Open in Washington Township



A representative is onsite on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month from 8 AM to Noon. 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

BPTP BEECHER PART-TIME PLAYERS

WHERE COMMUNITY AND THEATRE UNITE



Upcoming Shows



June 27th, 28th, July 11th, 12th 7:30p
June 29th 2:00p



August 8th, 9th 7:00p
August 10th 2:00p



December 5th, 6th 7:00p
August 7th 2:00p

Tickets



John C. Dean Memorial Theater
673 Penfield Street
Beecher, IL 60401

For tickets or more info visit
beecherparttimeplayers.com or
visit our Facebook page

www.beecherparttimeplayers.com

Facebook



Gun Safety in Washington Township

We have received concerns about gunfire in the unincorporated areas of the township. Yes, it is legal to shoot on your property, however, the county has ordinances regarding shooting. Please be safe when shooting and follow the law. A bullet can travel over a mile if there is nothing to stop it. Always shoot towards a berm or other acceptable form of backstop.



Washington Township Senior News

Spring Breakfast Scheduled May 3!

On May 3 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 any assistance or have questions!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game Bus Trips!

- **May 20 @ 6:35 PM - Joliet Slammers Baseball - Free transportation plus food! Tickets \$15**
- **June 17 @ 6:40 PM- Chicago White Sox vs. STL Cardinals Free transportation! Tickets \$20**

Tickets are limited to both games! Call us at 708-946-2026 for more information or to reserve your tickets! Bus leaves at 4:45 PM for BOTH games!



SENIOR MOVIE NIGHT



May 21 @ 6:30 PM

Washington Township Center
Refreshments will be served.

Bring a friend!



Beware of IRS Phone Scams

With the **2024** 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!

Important dates for our Seniors:

May 3 - 8:30 AM

Senior Breakfast - Beecher Amvet Hall

May 8 - 9 AM

Financial fraud presentation at the Washington Township Center. Refreshments will be served! (See page 8)

May 21 - 6:30 PM

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

June 4- 10AM - 2PM

Senior Assessment Freeze Assistance Program (page 5)

June 18 - 6:30 PM

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

Aug 9 - 9 AM

3rd Annual Community Blood Drive & Health Fair / featuring IL Lions Club Hearing Screenings. (This event is for ALL ages of the community!) More details to follow.

Sep 17 - 6:30 PM

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



Seniors, do you need a ride within Washington Township?

The Washington Township Dial-A-Ride bus is now running Monday & Thursday between 9 am - 3pm!

Call our office at (708) 946-2026 for more information.

Assessment Freeze Help Offered on June 4

Assessor Pat Peters has announced that her office will be offering assistance to Washington Township residents on **June 4 from 10 am to 2 pm** to assist seniors in completing their exemption forms. County workers will be assisting with the application process. No appointments are necessary - first come first serve.

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.

Are you eligible for a tax exemption?

There are many exemptions that you may qualify for! Call Assessor Peter's office if you qualify for any of the exemptions listed below.

General Homestead Exemption

- Do you live on the property, a named owner on the deed, and it is your principal residence? You qualify! This exemption is added and removed by our office, there is no form. ALWAYS check your property tax bill to make sure you have it if you qualify.

Disabled Person Exemption

- Are you collecting disability? You qualify! Please bring in the proof of disability or come to the office to get the form for the doctor to fill out for the proof and we will assist you with the exemption form.

Senior Homestead Exemption

- Do you turn 65 this year and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in your drivers license or ID for proof of age and we will assist you in the application.

Senior Freeze Exemption

- Are you 65 and have a total household income of less than \$65,000? You qualify! Bring in your current "Federal" income tax form and/or any forms you would normally take to have your income taxes done. If you meet the filing requirements, we will have the forms in our office after April 1st and can assist you in filling out the form.

Disabled Veteran

- Are you a Veteran with at least 30% service-connected disability through the Department of Veterans Affairs and a named owner on the deed? You qualify! Bring in a copy of your DD 214 as well as the proof of disability for the current year you are applying for that lists your percentage of disability and we will assist you in filling out the form.

2025 Concert in The Park Series Is Better Than Ever!

Once again, Washington Township will be cosponsoring the Concert in the Park series with the Village of Beecher. This year's lineup includes some of the best bands in Chicagoland!

Jun 7 (6 PM) - *Southtown Soul & Groove* is dedicated to celebrating the rich heritage of soul and R&B music. From the smooth grooves of Motown to the raw power of Southern soul, our repertoire spans the classics and hidden gems that have shaped these beloved genres. Our smokin' hot 6 piece horn and driving rhythm sections and exceptional lead vocals are committed to delivering a high-energy, immersive experience that resonates with both seasoned fans and new listeners alike.!

Jul 3 - *All American Throwback* is a Punk / EMO band that plays music from the late 90's through now. Their set list includes music from Blink 182, Fall Out Boy, Green Day, My Chemical Romance, Sum 41 and other great bands of this caliber! Even if you grew up listening to other music, this show can't be missed! It's a party!! Check the Beecher 4th of July Festival schedule for time!

Aug 16 (6 PM) - *One of These Nights* is an Eagles cover band that you must hear to believe! This band of performers is as close as you can get to the real thing while also playing hits from the member's solo careers. A talented group of musicians that perform with other bands, this band has a limited schedule and plays major festivals and other large venues. If you like the music of the Eagles, you'll leave this concert wanting more.

Sep 6 (6 PM) - *JukeBox Heros* - a hot and exciting Party Rock and Variety band playing popular cover music from the 60's through today that are upbeat, recognizable and danceable. An appreciation of the present, paired with respect for the past allows us to reach a variety of audiences by featuring a mix of classic rock, modern and alternative rock, R&B, funk, pop, dance, and country. Our high-energy, high-quality performance includes a professional quality sound blended with lots of energy in a fun atmosphere.

Mark you calendars, call your friends and get ready for a concert series like never before!



UPCOMING TOWNSHIP ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS for 2025

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

Tar & chip

- Church Road, W of the RR tracks
- Western Ave, N of Eagle Lake
- Offner Rd, E of Western
- Delite Inn Rd, E of Rt 1
- Corning Rd from State Line W



Asphalt

- Yates Ave from Kentucky Road to County Line

Grinding for Overhaul

- Western Ave from Indiana to Church Rd

Ongoing Maintenance for the Season includes:

- ◆ Asphalt patching and grading as needed
- ◆ Culvert assessments / repair or replace as needed
- ◆ Ditch mowing & cleaning (especially corners)

Beecher Lions Farmer's Market

The 2025 Beecher Farmers Market is now sponsored by the Beecher Lions Club!

All markets will be at Firemen's Park unless listed otherwise below.

This year we have over 60 vendors signed up for the season, including many food vendors. There will be something special going on at most of the markets. We are excited to invite local farmers, growers, and artisans to participate in our 2025 market season! Our mission is to provide the community with fresh, locally grown produce and quality, handmade products, and more!

[For more information or to signup as a vendor](#)

[please visit our Facebook page at:](#)

[BeecherFarmersMarket](#) (Scan QR code) or visit

our website at beecherlionsclub.org

The market runs 9am to 1pm.

2025 Dates:

- ✱ Jun 14 - Firemen's Park
- ✱ Jul 28 - Beecher Village Hall Parking Lot
- ✱ July 12 - Firemen's Park
- ✱ Jul 26 - Firemen's Park
- ✱ Aug 9 - Firemen's Park
- ✱ Aug 23 - Gould St
during "All American Days"
- ✱ Oct 11 - Firemen's Park
- ✱ Oct 25 - Firemen's Park & "Trunk or Treat"
- ✱ Nov 30 - Pop-Up Christmas Market -
Washington Township Community Building
- ✱ No September markets



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

2025 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 TOWNSHIP
30200 TOWNCENTER DR
BEECHER, IL 60401

**JUNE 4, 2025
10 AM - 2 PM**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 815-740-4648 OR VISIT
WWW.WILLCOUNTYSOA.COM

*Washington Township would like to **THANK** all of our local 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!*

Barn Fire Safety: Protecting Your Livestock and Property



Barn fires can be devastating, causing the loss of valuable livestock, equipment, and property. The Beecher Fire Protection District is committed to helping farmers and property owners reduce the risk of barn fires through prevention and preparedness.

Common Causes of Barn Fires

- **Electrical Issues** – Faulty wiring, overloaded circuits, and improper use of extension cords can spark fires.
- **Heating Equipment** – Space heaters, heat lamps, and other heating devices can ignite flammable materials.
- **Flammable Materials** – Hay, straw, bedding, and dust are highly combustible if not properly stored.
- **Smoking and Open Flames** – Cigarettes, welding, or open flames can quickly start a fire in dry environments.
- **Equipment and Machinery** – Overheated engines, fuel leaks, and poor maintenance can lead to fires.

Fire Prevention Measures

- **Electrical Safety** – Have all wiring inspected by a licensed electrician and avoid using extension cords as permanent wiring.
- **Proper Storage** – Store hay and other flammable materials in a dry, well-ventilated area to reduce the risk of spontaneous combustion.
- **Safe Heating Practices** – Keep heating devices away from flammable materials and never leave them unattended.
- **No Smoking** – Prohibit smoking in and around barns and enforce strict fire safety rules.
- **Regular Equipment Maintenance** – Inspect and clean machinery frequently to prevent overheating and fuel leaks.

Emergency Preparedness

- **Fire Extinguishers** – Place fire extinguishers at key locations and ensure all staff knows how to use them.
- **Escape Plans** – Develop and practice an emergency plan, including livestock evacuation strategies.

By implementing these fire safety measures, barn owners can help protect their animals, equipment, and livelihood from the devastating effects of fire. The Beecher Fire Protection District encourages all property owners to stay vigilant and proactive in fire prevention efforts.

For more fire safety tips or to schedule a barn fire safety check, contact the Beecher Fire Protection District Assistant Chief Tim McGannon
(708)946-6585 Ext 4009 or
tmcgannon@beecherfire.org

Beecher Fire Protection District

Barn Fire Safety Check

Don't Let The Next Barn Fire Be On Your Property!

The Beecher Fire Protection District is offering a barn safety walk-through program to help reduce the risk of fire hazards in barns and outbuildings.

Checklist Includes :

- Heating methods
- Electrical wiring and equipment
- Storage areas
- Exits and pathways
- Personal safety
- Fire extinguishers
- And more

This is not an inspection! No fines or violations will be issued, only suggestions.

SCHEDULE A WALK-THROUGH

Assistant Chief
Tim McGannon
(708) 946-6585
Ext 4009
tmcgannon@beecherfire.org

Financial Fraud Presentation Scheduled for May 8 - Learn the Risks and How To Prevent Them!

Washington Township has partnered with First Community Bank and Trust to present a Financial Fraud seminar on **May 8 at 9 am at the Washington Township Center**. Learn the risks and preventive actions you can take from First Community Bank and Trust President & CEO Greg Ohlendorf and CIO Tod Eastman. This seminar is highly recommended for our seniors and for any resident who wants to learn how to protect themselves from this growing threat.

Financial Fraud is on the Rise. Scammers are getting more sophisticated, and they are constantly looking to scam money from anyone that falls for their deception. In this presentation, we'll explore the signs of fraud and the technology available to help deter it, including:

- An overview of the current bank fraud trends that have been making headlines and the state of cybersecurity in 2025.
- Check fraud - Recognize the signs and learn how to keep it from happening.
- Effective tactics you can employ to help prepare yourself to handle new and more sophisticated threats.

We'll also cover:

- How fraud affects people
- How money is moved and what do criminals prefer
- Dark Web Intro
- Debit Card Activity
- How to protect yourself
- Actions to take in case fraud happens to you
- Email & phone phishing scams

This is a can't miss seminar that affects everyone!
Refreshments will be served.

**May 8
at the
Washington
Township
Center**

Learn more about Washington Township, our services, meeting dates and more by visiting our website:

www.washingtontownshipil.com

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President
Dave Miramontes

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Sat 7:30-3:00

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WEDNESDAY 11-8
THURS 11-8
FRIDAY 11-9
SATURDAY 10-5

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WE CLOSE EARLY IF NO PAINTERS



A PAINT YOUR OWN
PROJECT STUDIO

WALK-INS WELCOME
BIRTHDAY PARTIES
PRIVATE EVENTS
POTTERY TO GO
GROUP PAINT NIGHTS



@CREATIVEEDGEBEECHER



Washington Township Community Building News!

Improvements and updates continue to happen at the Washington Township Community Hall. We recently completed installation of new flooring throughout the lower level. It looks great and provides a fresher, more modern look for the main room and kitchen. We also replaced the sinks in the kitchen and installed a new stainless steel rolling table which opened the space and should make the kitchen more accessible and usable. Plans are also under way to replace the outdated counter tops.

One of the other projects we are working on is to replace the worn-out banquet tables with a newer, lighter design that will be easier to lift and set up for various functions. We also continue to work on a sign to be placed out in front of the building so that it will be easier for residents and visitors to locate the Hall.

The Hall is available to rent by any local resident and 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. 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.

Thank you for all your support and patience as we continue to work on keeping the Community Hall a "jewel" in the heart of Washington Township!



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

- * **June 5,6,7** - Beecher Chamber of Commerce "**Garage Sale Days**"
- * **June 7** - Beecher Chamber **Golf Outing** at Cardinal Creek. Contact the Chamber for details.
- * **July 2 thru 5** - Annual Beecher "**4th of July**" **Celebration** at Firemen's Park. Win a new car! Fireworks on July 4!
- * **July 4 @ 8 AM** - **Freedom 5K Run/Walk** sponsored by the Beecher Lion's Club
- * **July 5** - Beecher Chamber of Commerce Annual **Pork Chop Dinner** at Fireman's Park
- * **July 18** - Beecher Lions Club **Golf Outing**, contact the Lions Club for details.
- * **Aug 9** - **3rd Annual Community Blood Drive & Resource Fair** at Beecher Fire Dept & Firemen's Park
- * **Sportsmen's Club Fish Fry** - Second Friday of the month.
- * **Amvets Fish Fry** - Last Friday of the month.



The Election Results are Complete!

The Washington Township Officials taking office in May of 2025 include:

- ✓ **Supervisor Mike Stanula**
- ✓ **Assessor Patricia Peters**
- ✓ **Highway Commissioner Mike Smith**
- ✓ **Clerk Joe Burgess**

Trustees:

- ✓ **Paul Goldrick**
- ✓ **Tracy Heldt**
- ✓ **Mark Herlitz**



There is one open seat on the Board

Washington Township Medical Closet

Washington Township residents can take advantage of the township's Medical Closet for many of their "short term" medical equipment needs. The medical closet typically has wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, and shower chairs in inventory and available for checkout. There is no cost to residents to borrow items and we simply ask that all items be returned clean when they are no longer needed. Please call our office at (708) 946-2026 to make arrangements to drop-off or check out equipment.

The Kicking It Back Center Adds ADA Ramp

The Kicking It Back Center (KIB) recently installed an ADA handicap ramp to allow for easier access into their building. The project included the ramp, railing and replacing the sidewalk on Kicking It Back's property. The Village of Beecher graciously agreed to replace the old and uneven public sidewalks in front of the building. The total cost of the project was \$12,500. KIB's share of the project was \$10,000, which will be covered by a grant received from Will County. The Village used TIF funds to pay \$2,500 to replace the public sidewalk. Thanks again to the Village Board for recognizing the importance of this project!

The Kicking It Back Center is a non-profit organization that offers local residents Senior Programs, Youth Programs, Exercise Programs, Karate, Guitar Lessons (call for availability and details) and other activities at **no cost**. Senior programs include exercise, yoga, Zumba, bunco, bingo, pinocle and much more!

The center is now fully ADA compliant with the new ramp and an ADA washroom, which was added in 2024.

The karate program, started in 2006 by owner Juan Hernandez, who holds a 8 degree Blackbelt in karate, has produced over 100 "National" karate titles and 47 "World Championship" medalists, including 12 "World Champions". In 2024, Sensei Hernandez and his team took Jenna Huskisson, Joe Huskisson and Hunter Ogle to Greece and Portugal for the World Championships and these remarkable athletes combined for 26 medals.

The Kicking It Back Center is located at 522 Gould Street in Beecher. To learn more call 708-231-6289 or visit their website at thekickingitbackcenter.org. You can also connect with them on Facebook.



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 **slow down, watch for hand signals, pass with care and watch for blinking amber lights when approaching farm equipment**. Help us to make this year's planting season a safe one!



Why Use Beecher Community Calendar Phone APP?

There are over **40** different events listed in this newsletter! Did you know they are ALL available on the BCC phone app. No looking at multiple Facebook pages or websites! One place on your phone! The App also includes info from the:

- Beecher Fire Dept.
- Beecher School District
- Village of Beecher
- Washington Township



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