

McHenry Township

www.mchenrytownship.com

815-385-5605

Spring 2016 Newsletter

3703 North Richmond Road, Johnsburg, Illinois 60051

TOWNSHIPS SERVE PEOPLE!

Township governments embody America's great democratic principles.

Township government is intended to follow the will of the people and to respond to their needs. Township government today meets the criteria of open communication between elected officials and citizenry better and more effectively than any other form of local government.

Notwithstanding our limited resources, your tax dollars, the Township provides necessary and valuable services for the community. By law, the township is mandated to provide road maintenance, property tax assessment and financial assistance for persons who qualify as low income; however, we do much more.

A statutory responsibility of township government is its annual township meeting held every April, when registered voters vote on agenda items. Ironically, many politicians have seized upon this town meeting concept and hold town hall events as a means to reach out to people to hear their political ideas.

American citizens have a number of expectations of their local governments. They expect efficient and effective delivery of local government services. They expect local autonomy and control, and they expect that their local government leaders will make policy that is in their best interests. They expect that their local taxes will be used to benefit their local community.

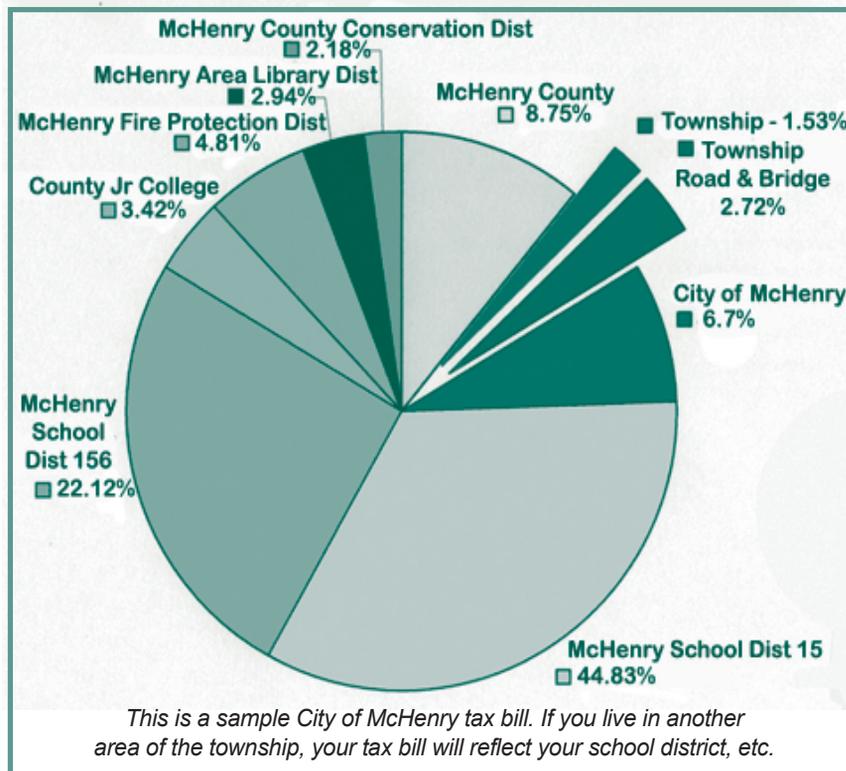
McHenry Township is able to make an impact on its resident's lives because we are compact, efficient, accountable and accessible. This allows us as a governing body the ability to identify the needs of our

community, to solve problems, or work with inter-governmental agreements to deliver a beneficial solution.

McHenry Township is proud to report it has kept a flat levy for the last five years. There have been no increases in tax, yet the township has implemented increases in service. We believe that the facilities, parks and vehicles belong to the public. It is our duty to responsibly utilize these in the most cost efficient

manner without duplicating services that are provided by the villages, cities, county or state.

According to a report by the Illinois Task Force on Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates, townships account for an average of only 2 percent of property taxes collected. We are small, accessible, responsive, and cost effective. First and foremost, we, McHenry Township, are here to serve you.



YOU'RE INVITED McHENRY TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
McHenry Township Hall
3703 N. Richmond Road, Johnsburg

The Annual Township Meeting is held on the second Tuesday in April. The purpose of this meeting is to publish the Supervisor's Annual Financial Report and the Road District Treasurer's Annual Report; to discuss and vote on issues of Township Business; and to allow electors to speak on Township Government issues.

All McHenry Township residents are invited however only registered voters are able to vote at the meeting.



RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE Wednesday, March 2 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 1 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Rules of the Road Review Course is designed to give all drivers – especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities – the knowledge and confidence needed to renew or obtain a driver's license. The course is offered at McHenry Township Hall by the Illinois Secretary of State Office and will prepare you for your test.

The class updates drivers on the current rules of the road and prepares them for the general writing and road sign examination. Learn what is expected for your actual road test and take a practice written exam.

No class admission fee and no reservations are required.

Get to Know Your Township!

Many people are **not** familiar with township government. It has been in existence for 140 years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The wording of the Declaration of Independence reflects the fact that 38 of its 56 signers lived in and experienced the benefits of township government.

The Declaration's statement "government should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed" is demonstrated by the Annual Town Meeting. After more than 370 years, the Annual Town Meeting is still an important function of our nation's 17,000 townships.

For more than 150 years, township government in Illinois has served the local interests of its constituents and remains directly accountable to the voters. Township government is operated by . . . the people next door.

People who serve in Township Government are men and women who embody the practice of citizenry government. They are local homeowners and workers. Because they govern at the most basic level of service, they make themselves available to the people they serve and fulfill their responsibilities in the most cost efficient manner.

McHenry Township Strategic Planning is in place to insure that the township's limited resources, your tax dollars, are providing necessary and valuable services for the community. The most crucial part of the strategic planning process is public input. We need you to tell us what services and programs are important to you. The community input can then be strategically analyzed to determine our strengths and weaknesses. We then are able to develop our goals and objectives.

The Annual Town Meeting is the only instance, unlike state and federal governments, in which the residents have a direct voice in how their government is run. Your participation is essential for us to assess what is needed to be addressed in our local area. We then are able to determine and provide the proper services to continue to better serve our community.

Township government is considered the last remaining true grassroots democratic experience. If you are unable to come to the meeting, visit our website and learn about our activities, programs and services to see how we are putting your tax dollars to work.

**McHenry Township
Supervisor
Craig M. Adams**



**Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

**815-385-5605
fax 815-385-5671**

supervisor@mchenrytownship.com

McHenry Township Board of Trustees meetings are held the second Thursday every month at 7:00 p.m.

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday, April 25, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.
McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N. Richmond Road**

Every two seconds, someone in this country needs blood. Blood is needed daily for surgeries, emergencies, medical procedures and cancer treatments.

The need for blood locally remains constant. The public can donate a pint of blood every 56 days. Donors are encouraged to eat a meal prior to giving blood and drink plenty of water. A photo ID is required at donation time.

Blood donation requirements include a minimum weight of 115 pounds and minimum age of 17. A 16-year old may donate blood with written parental consent. There is no upper age limit for donating blood. Many health conditions and medications do NOT prevent someone from donating blood. People taking insulin, blood pressure, thyroid, and cholesterol medications, aspirin, antidepressants, and hormone replacement **can** give blood. Tattoos are also okay as long as they are healed.

APPOINTMENTS ARE RECOMMENDED

To schedule your appointment please contact:

LifeSource at 877-543-3768 or
online at lifesource.org and use sponsor code 241G

RTA PASSES: Apply at McHenry Township Monday through Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

RTA's Reduced Fare Program & Circuit Ride Free Program is for citizens age 65 or over and persons with disabilities who live in the RTA service region and are eligible for free or reduced fares on fixed routes operated by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Metra and Pace (route buses).

Applicants will need a wallet-sized color photo or McHenry Township provides the service of taking your photo for your application. (There is a charge for non-resident photos.) The person in the photo cannot wear a hat, scarf or sunglasses.

For detailed information and instructions about RTA Reduced Fare Program or the Circuit Ride Free Program go to: <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/rta-passes.html> We also provide links to area transportation options.

IS YOUR WELL WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

During the month of April, McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH) offers residents a special price for coliform bacteria and nitrate testing for individual well water. Many contaminants are colorless and odorless; testing is the only way to determine whether well water is safe to drink.

**Pick-up a test kit at McHenry Township office
3703 North Richmond Road
Monday thru Friday between 8:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
at the Front Desk**

Drop-off your water sample for MCDH testing with the completed paperwork on any Tuesday before 12 p.m. (unless Tuesday falls on a holiday). Water samples must be collected the same day they are dropped off.



Make sure that the date and time of collection are included. Samples must be tested within 24 hours after collection. For drop-off information go to <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/water-testing.html>

For questions about water testing contact MCDH at 815-334-4585 or go to their website www.co.mchenry.il.us/county-government/departments-a-i/health-department/environmental-health/laboratory-services

MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAM to minimize the impact of West Nile Virus **The Mosquito Abatement Program is financed by McHenry Township.**

McHenry Township has been paying the cost for mosquito abatement for its residents for over 30 years. The McHenry Township Board accepted the bid proposal from Clarke Mosquito Control.

Clarke will provide a larvicide mosquito control program to the communities within the Township including the Villages of Johnsburg, McCullom Lake, Lakemoor, Ringwood and Wonder Lake; the City of McHenry; and all unincorporated areas. Participation in this program is based on the execution of an intergovernmental agreement with the municipalities and the Township.

Work includes the inspection of potential breeding areas, application of the EPA approved larvicides when breeding is found at respective site treatment (by hand, power backpack and helicopter) and treatment of all street catch basins, manholes and/or inlets; and adult mosquito surveillance and arbovirus testing.

Residents can help control mosquito development by alerting Clarke to the locations where water has remained standing for four or more days by telephoning its **toll-free Mosquito Hotline at 800-942-2555**.

GET-AROUND ON McHENRY TOWNSHIP EXPRESS! **for senior citizens & adults with disabilities**



McHenry Township's Transportation Program picks you up at your door on those cold days and drops you off at your destination. The program allows seniors and disabled adults to board the bus in their driveway instead of maneuvering a wheel chair or a walker to the street for a curb-side pickup as with Pace service. Service is a donation of \$1.

McHenry Township Express services residents living in the 60050, 60051, 60097 and 60072 zip code areas. Buses operate within McHenry Township and also drop-off and pick-up passengers for Centegra Medical Centers and McHenry Community Health Center: Door-To-Door Service.

McHenry Township Express
operates
Monday through Friday
between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

to schedule a ride call:
Pace's Dispatch Center
Monday through Friday
from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturdays
from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
800-451-4599
(TTY) 888-454-4724

STEP #1: New riders (township residents only) must register for service with the Township office by calling 815-385-5605.

Once you've completed this one-time simple registration, you can call Pace to set up paratransit rides as often as you need transportation.

STEP #2: Call the PACE Dispatch Center (800-451-4599) to schedule rides on McHenry Township Express bus. You must call at least 1 day or up to 7 days prior—to schedule a ride. Tell the dispatcher you are calling for the Township Express bus.

McHenry Township Parks

Annually, thousands of residents utilize our community recreation areas and athletic fields for outdoor enjoyment! Our parks accommodate year-round recreation opportunities for all ages.

PICNIC SHELTER RESERVATIONS

McHenry Township Park has eight cedar shelters in a shaded rolling picnic grove; running water, restrooms, parking picnic tables, a grill & some electricity.

A park permit is required to reserve a picnic shelter for any group of 20 or more people. Reservations must be made in person. To guarantee the reservation, a deposit fee must be paid for shelter reservations. For information about picnic shelter pricing or to download a Rental Agreement go to www.mchenrytownship.com/shelter-rental.html

The park must be left clean and in original condition. Renters are responsible for set up and clean up. Tent set-up and take-down must occur the same day of the event unless special approval is obtained. For questions about availability call the Township at 815-385-5605.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF NORTH MCHENRY COUNTY

www.relayforlife.org/northmchenryil
in McHenry Township Park

6 p.m. Saturday, June 25 to 6 a.m. Sunday, June 26

Raise money to Fight Cancer through Research! Participants form teams, obtain pledges and camp out in McHenry Township Park. Through the night, participants take turns walking or running around the track. As cancer never sleeps... Relay For Life is an all-night event.



Get involved!! Volunteer workers are needed. Attend event planning meetings at McHenry Township Recreation Center, 3519 N. Richmond Road in Johnsburg at 7:30 p.m.; Monday March 21; Monday, April 18; Monday, May 16 and Monday, June 13. Event Leadership Team and Committee meetings will also be at the Recreation Center.

Go to their website for detailed information and on-line registration. For specific information or to volunteer your services, contact Kaitlin at [Kaitlin, Thompson@cancer.org](mailto:Kaitlin.Thompson@cancer.org) or 815-560-1924 at the American Cancer Society.

A park brings people together to enjoy outdoor athletic and relaxation activities. It offers a wide variety of free family fun including children's playgrounds and picnic areas.

McHenry Township Park accommodates: larger special annual events; organizational activities and camps; and smaller events like family reunions, weddings, and company outings.

Whether as a participant or a spectator, the park provides an array of athletic fields and courts:

- **4-baseball diamonds** scheduled spring through fall
- **3-NCAA approved soccer fields**
- **Our football field** is the home of the McHenry Township Junior Warriors
- **2- tournament certified bocce ball courts**
- **2- baggo courts**
- **sand recreational volleyball court**

For park information go to www.mchenrytownship.com/parks.htm or contact Operations Manager Terry Wagner at 815-385-5605. For all athletic field coordination and scheduling contact operations@mchenrytownship.com

IT'S YOUR PARK— please take care of it!

Enjoy your park & help preserve its environment.
The park is open dawn to dusk!

Obey posted McHenry Township Park Rules!

- No alcoholic beverages allowed in the park unless a beer/wine permit is obtained. Alcohol permits must be submitted prior to the picnic.
- No Fundraising allowed unless with a special permit.
- No pets or animals with the exception of assist dogs. No animals shall be allowed in parks or facilities unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Township.
- Parking is restricted to parking lots only. No parking is allowed on grass areas.

Violators will be prosecuted. The Johnsburg Police Department is empowered to enforce the rules and regulations of the Township Parks and Facilities.



McHenry Township
Clerk

Marsha A. Nelson

Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

815-385-5605
fax 815-385-5671

clerk@mchenrytownship.com

THE NEW STATE OF ILLINOIS GRACE PERIOD REGISTRATION

Grace Period Registration is also known as Same-Day Registration and allows voters to register and vote during Early Voting period and on Election Day. Grace Period Registration, allows eligible citizens to register or update their registration at the polls or their local election office by showing valid identification to a poll worker or election official, who checks the identification, consults the registration list and, if they are not registered or the registration is out of date, registers them on the spot.

With Grace Period Registration, proof of residency is a key requirement. The prospective voter must present proof of residency at the time of registration. If you register to vote during the grace period and want to vote in the upcoming election, you must vote at the time of registration!

All voters who register and vote at Early Voting or Election Day must present documentation to verify their name and current address. A current Illinois driver's license or ID card will suffice or documents such as a paycheck or a utility bill with an address is acceptable for proving residence.

In Illinois, you can register to vote by mail, as well as in person at the County Clerk's Office, Board of Election Commissioner's Office, McHenry Township Office, City and Village Offices, Schools, Public Libraries, Military Recruitment Offices. Additionally registration is available online and you can also process your voter registration at your local Illinois driver license office when you apply for a new driver's license.

The Illinois General Primary Election will be held on Tuesday March 15, 2016.

A primary election is the election process that narrows the field of candidates. This is the opportunity to nominate candidates for the upcoming General Election in November.

In the Illinois Primary, voters do not have to register with a party, but they do have to choose, publicly, which party's ballot they will vote on at the primary election. In this election, voters will have the choice of a Democratic or Republican ballot. If there are one or more referenda questions in a voter's precinct, a voter may ask for a non-partisan ballot that will contain only the referenda question(s) but no candidates.

Asking for a political party ballot only determines which ballot you will cast in that primary. It has no effect on how you can vote in future elections or primaries.

If your schedule prevents you from voting on Election Day, cast your ballot before March 15 by using touch-screen voting machines at the McHenry Township office. For information about voting at the township go to: <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/voter-services.html>

Early Voting at McHenry Township

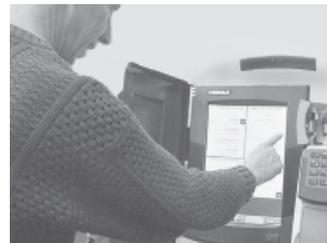
Monday, February 29 thru Friday, March 4
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 7 thru Friday, March 11
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 12
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Monday, March 14
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Early Voters must display valid photo identification such as a current Illinois Drivers License or a state issued ID card or another government-issued ID with a photograph.



For more detailed information about elections visit <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/county-government/departments-a-i/county-clerk> for voting information.

The law prohibits any voter who has been issued a Vote-By-Mail or Early Voting ballot from appearing at his precinct polling place and requesting another ballot.

Honor, Service & Sacrifice

McHenry Township Blue Star Banner Program

The McHenry Township *Blue Star Banner Program* is all about honoring our local men and women who are currently serving in the military service and is a salute to their families. It's an American tradition to display a Blue Star Service Banner in the window of a home when a loved one is proudly serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

As Americans, McHenry Township honors and supports our troops by awarding service families a Blue Star Banner as a reminder that military service and sacrifice touches every neighborhood. On November 12 at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting, McHenry Township, in recognition of the commitment and sacrifices military families make every day thanked the participating family for their dedication and service to our country with a Resolution plaque and a Blue Star Banner

At the presentation ceremony, Trustee Amy Mercurio read the Special Resolution; the plaque was then presented by Township Supervisor Craig Adams. The Beta Omicron Master (a McHenry non-collegiate service sorority) presented the Blue Star Banner flag.

The Blue Star Banner was awarded to:
Joseph W. Meyer the father of (with his wife Christine)
Sergeant Kevin J. Meyer of the US Marine Corps.

We would like to acknowledge and convey a very special thank you to the Color Guard of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps for the flag presentation and their participation in the ceremony.

If a member of your family is in the military and you live in McHenry Township —you qualify for this Program.



The next Blue Star Banner Presentation will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at McHenry Township Hall. The registration deadline is July 5. There are no fees to participate in this program.

For more information or download an application go to:

<http://www.mchenrytownship.com/blue-star-banner.html>

- Fax the completed form to 815-385-5671
- Or e-mail the completed form to clerk@mchenrytownship.com
- You can also mail the completed form to: Blue Star Banner Program,



**To register for activities
on the SENIOR CENTER pages
or for more detailed information
call Activities Director Julie McFarlin
815-344-3555**

McHenry Township Senior Center
3519 North Richmond Road
(just west of Route 31 & Johnsburg Road)

<http://www.mchenrytownship.com/senior-center.html>
for monthly Activities Calendar



Shamrockin' **ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY**

Thursday, March 17 at 11:30 a.m.

McHenry Township invites senior residents to celebrate the Shamrock at a party where everyone is Irish! The wearin' o' the green will take place at McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N Richmond Road.

The festivities begin with a hearty Irish luncheon featuring corned beef and cabbage with all the trimmings. After dessert, Irish eyes will be smiling with the entertaining performance of Mike Knauf and his Irish Band, the Nippersink Rouges.

The group will be performing a diverse blend of vocal and instrumental traditional Irish music... plus all of your sing-along favorites. Join us and celebrate an over the rainbow fantastic St. Patrick's Day!

Tickets are \$12 per person. To register call Julie at 815-344-3555. Reservation deadline is Monday, March 14.



FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS

The McHenry County district of the AARP Tax-Aide is a program co-sponsored by AARP and the IRS and is again offering its annual free tax preparation for Senior and Special Needs Citizens with low to moderate income. Both Federal and State returns are electronically filed for rapid refunds.

In McHenry Township the AARP Tax-Aide site is located at McHenry Public Library, 809 N. Front Street. They are open by appointment only on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Call to make your appointment at 815-451-1578.

For additional locations throughout McHenry County click on AARP Tax-Aide Locator at http://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/

The program is for seniors 60 or over with incomes of \$60,000 or under. The program does not cover business income, rental real estate or excessive stock sales. Both Federal and State returns are electronically filed for rapid refunds. If you used the AARP program last year, you should return to the site that did your taxes last year.

Taxpayers should bring their 2014 tax return and the paperwork that went with it: all W2s, 1099s, and financial statements for 2015 (Medical expenses, contributions, etc.) If you sold stock you must know what you paid for it and when. If you have not used AARP Tax Aide before, you should also bring a picture I.D. and Social Security Card for each taxpayer. All sites will close on April 14, 2016.

SENIOR CENTER MOVIE MATINEE

Enjoy wall sized projection & a super sound system!

Show time is 12 noon! No admission charge!

Complimentary popcorn is available to all who attend.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Friday, March 4: *The Little Princess (1939)*
- Friday March 18: *Waking Ned Devine (1998)*
- Friday, April 8: *Gotta Dance (2008)*
- Friday, April 22: *A League of Their Own (1992)*
- Friday, May 6: *For Richer or Poorer (1997)*
- Friday, May 20: *The 100 Foot Journey (2014)*
- Friday, June 3: *Made of Honor (2008)*
- Thursday, June 16: *27 Dresses (2008)*

PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

Wednesday, March 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Senior Services will be hosting representatives from the McHenry County Sheriff's office, who will update you with the current scams and trends, arming you with knowledge to help protect yourself and friends from becoming a victim.

We will talk about latest scams and rip-offs that target seniors and what to do if you become a victim. Don't be afraid or ashamed; report it. We can not stress enough, be aware of "too good to be true deals" Join us to avoid becoming a victim. No Fee. Registration is required.



A DAY AT THE RACES!

Thursday, April 21 at 1 p.m.

Let's go to the races with Senior Services at the McHenry Township Hall! As we anticipate the upcoming Kentucky Derby, enjoy light appetizers and beverages while 'betting' on your favorite 'horse'. Come and join in the fun! Many thanks to Fair Oaks Care Center, Crystal Lake and Hearthstone Senior Living, Woodstock for co-sponsoring this event. Fee: \$5. Reservation deadline: Monday, April 18.

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS

**2ND & 3RD MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH
from 10 a.m. until noon**

Attorney *Jenette Schwemler* will be available to seniors at McHenry Township Senior Center to answer legal questions seniors have regarding estate planning, Medicaid benefits, veteran benefits, divorce, wills, or other general legal inquires. Private 30 minute consultations are available and there is no charge for this service. Call for appointment.



'MOM AND POP' CELEBRATION

Friday, May 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a special celebration to honor moms and dads! And...you don't have to be a parent to join in the fun. Everyone is welcome!!! If possible, please provide a baby photo of yourself prior to the registration deadline for a fun party game. (The photo will be returned to you.)

While enjoying a special dessert treat, Randy Walker will provide guitar and vocal entertainment, bringing old time favorites from the 30s through the 50s. Join in the fun and reminiscence!

No Fee. Reservations required by Tuesday, May 10. This event is generously sponsored by Heritage Woods.

SENIOR PROM LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 19 at 11:30 a.m.

May is also Older Americans Month, a time when we recognize older Americans for their contributions to our nation. Let's celebrate it in style with a Senior Prom! Doll up in your finest, come with a date or 'stag'. Dine on a fabulous catered luncheon. Then be entertained by the musical styling of *Edizon Dayao*. He will wow you with his piano and saxophone playing, and dynamic vocals in his 'Big Band Tribute'! Fee: \$8. Reservation deadline is Monday, May 16.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR PROPERTY TAXES AND EXEMPTIONS

Wednesday, May 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Are you unsure what your property assessment notice means? Come and hear our Township Assessor, *Mary Mahady*, explain the process,



answer your questions and make sure you are receiving all of the exemptions to which you are entitled. Senior Services Information & Assistance specialists, *Sue Charles & Valerie Usalis* will also be available to explain the forms and exemptions for seniors, the disabled

and our veterans that we can help them complete, their due dates and the documentation needed to complete these forms. No fee. Reservation required.

SPONSOR APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Friday, June 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Please join Senior Services in thanking our sponsors. We will be serving a delicious chicken dinner and dessert. For the entertainment, we are asking for YOUR support! Help Julie put together a 'Variety Show' in which anything goes! Grab a friend and sing a song, read a poem, tell a few jokes...the sky is the limit! Show our sponsors how much we appreciate all they do for us throughout the year. Fee: \$5. Reservation deadline is Tuesday, June 14.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

Monday, May 23 at 10:30 a.m.

Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Senior Services, Inc. of McHenry is proud to host a commemoration ceremony to honor those who fought to secure our freedoms. We will welcome back Andy Balafas, Veterans Community Liaison of Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, who will share with us a tribute to our veterans. Join us in a patriotic sing along and enjoy cake and coffee as we honor men and women. No Fee. Reservations required.



2016 THE YEAR TO FEEL BETTER!

Free of charge workshops to keep fit and well.

Senior Services Associates offers many classes for older adults who have low mobility, feel they are slowing down or are afraid of falling. Class sizes are limited and fill quickly. Please call NOW to make your reservation!

A MATTER OF BALANCE: Developed by Roybal Center Consortium, Trustees of Boston University, this program is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Learn to set realistic goals to increase activity, change your environment to reduce fall risk factors, and learn simple exercises to increase strength and balance. Classes meet for 2 hours, once a week and two 8-week sessions will be offered: May 5 – June 23 and September 29 – November 17.

FIT AND STRONG!: An award-winning exercise program developed by University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Research on Health and Aging. This is for older adults with osteoarthritis (OA) in their knees, hips, lower spine, ankles, and/or feet. Research has shown that people enrolled in the program and who attend regularly experience increased confidence about their ability to exercise. Exercising regularly, they experience decreased pain and stiffness in their joints. Classes meet for 1 ½ hour, three times a week and one 8-week session is still available: August 1 – September 23.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH: A Stanford University Self-Management program designed to energize people with ongoing health conditions such as: arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, anxiety, and heart disease. This program covers a new topic each week and provides opportunities for interaction and group problem solving. By sharing in the process, participants find that the answer to someone's question is usually right there in the room. Classes meet for 2 ½ hours once per week and two 6 week sessions will be offered: March 24 – April 28 and October 10 – November 14.

Salvation Army Nutrition Program

Have a nutritious lunch & socialize with other seniors!

Golden Diners Deli

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekdays

hot soup, salad bar, choice of sandwich or a hot entrée, & dessert; choice of milk or coffee

Donations are welcome.

For reservations and information call
Site Manager, Mary Ann at 815-385-8260

Home Delivered Meal Program provides home-bound older adults with nutritious meals which are delivered by Salvation Army employees and volunteers. The meal delivery also provides a vital "well-being check" to assure that all is well in the life of the homebound. Whether your disablement is temporary or permanent, you can apply by calling Senior Services Associates, Inc. at 815-344-3555.



For information or
TO REGISTER for activities
on the Senior Center pages
contact Julie McFarlin
call 815-344-3555

**Join us on Facebook by clicking "Like"!
on Facebook page**

McHenry Township Senior Center, Illinois

**You will be able to get information and
reminders about activities on your computer.**





McHenry Township
Assessor
Mary Mahady

Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

815-385-0175
fax 815-322-5150

assessor@mchenrytownship.com

HAPPY
2016

It's a new year and while it may be a fresh start in many ways, in the world of assessments, we continue to evaluate assessments and value properties correctly. Last year was a quadrennial assessment year in which we were required to look at all assessments in our jurisdiction. That does not mean however that we do nothing until the next quadrennial in 2019. As sale prices continue to change, we are required to do our best to make sure homes are being assessed equitably. In some cases, that will mean entire subdivisions are reassessed.

We will continue to update photos, follow up on permits and collect information to ensure we have the most current details on properties as we can. We will be looking at sales ratio studies to determine which, if any, neighborhoods are over/under assessed and need correcting. We will also add value for any improvements that may have been discovered or recently added to a property.

I would ask that you take a moment to go to our website and check your property record card. The information we have there is the basis for your assessment. It is in your best interest to alert us to any discrepancies that you see so they can be corrected as soon as possible.

YES...

Exemptions Matter!!!

I know you may get tired of reading about exemptions but I assure you that there will be lots of property owners that see this for the first time and will contact my office to receive the exemptions they are entitled to. The sooner you let us know that you are not receiving an exemption you believe you are entitled to, the sooner we can correct it. We can also answer questions regarding any of the exemptions and whether you qualify for them. Please check your records and tell your friends and family to check theirs too.

The list below includes the most common exemptions. You can only receive these exemptions on one home which is designated as your primary residence. You cannot receive duplicate exemptions on any other home, even if it is in another state. When you receive an exemption, it is subtracted from your assessment prior to the tax rate being applied, ultimately reducing your tax liability.

Assessment – Exemptions x Tax Rate = Taxes

- General Homestead Exemption (\$6,000)
- Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption (\$5,000...**being age 65 is the only requirement**)
- Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption (varies...**age 65 and income under \$55,000**)
- Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities (\$2,000...**specific requirements**)
- Homestead Improvement Exemption (varies...**for qualifying, newly added improvements**)
- Veterans with Disabilities (**exemptions available starting at 30% service related disability**)

For more detailed information, call us at 815-385-0175 or go to our website at <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/exemptions.html> or to the Department of Revenue website at <http://www.revenue.state.il.us/LocalGovernment/PropertyTax/>

Opportunities to Meet Your Assessor Mary Mahady

Stop and Chat.....

McHenry Chamber Expo....Saturday, February 27 10:00 – 4:00pm
 Johnsburg Business Expo...Saturday, March 12 10:00 – 4:00pm

Property Assessment Question and Answer Forum

(Held at the McHenry Township Hall)

Wednesday, April 6 9:30 – 11:30 am
 Thursday, April 21 5:30 – 7:30 pm
 Thursday, April 28 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Property Assessments, Taxes and Appeals: What do they mean to you?

(Held at the McHenry Township Senior Center)

Wednesday, May 25 10:00 – 11:00 am

An RSVP would be appreciated to 815-385-0175
 If you cannot attend one of these forums, I will always be available for individual appointments

Farm Assessments... can be complicated!

If you believe you are entitled to a farm assessment exemption, please contact my office. Please note that you may be zoned for agriculture but that alone does not qualify you for this exemption. I will need to verify what activity is taking place and may need to set up a site visit. Below is information taken from the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board "Farm Appeal Information" brochure that helps explain what qualifies:

In order to qualify for a farmland assessment, Illinois law states the property in question must have been used as a farm for the previous two years [35 ILCS 200/10-110]. The statute defines farm as "any property used solely for the growing and harvesting of crops; for the feeding, breeding, and management of livestock; for dairying or for any other agricultural or horticultural use or combination thereof; ... the keeping, raising and feeding of livestock or poultry, ... fur farming, bees, fish and wildlife farming." [35 ILCS 200/1-60] **A farmland assessment will not be given to property which is primarily used for residential purposes even though some farm products may be grown or farm animals bred or fed on the property incidental to its primary use.**

Fighting For You!

It is my desire to do this job in the best way possible. What I have learned in the two years that I have been honored to serve you is that while our real estate tax dollars stay local, there are a lot of laws made by our elected representatives that directly impact how the tax burden in an area is distributed. There were laws created during the real estate market crash that allowed changes to how things had been done since the inception of our property tax system to unfairly shift the burden to those not in the distress sale market.

I have met with many taxpayers that have been forced to pay a larger portion of taxes while neighbors with similar homes are paying much less. There will always be those who know the loopholes and how to play the system. As an elected official, I will continue to fight for all of us and work toward tax and assessment laws that are fair to everyone, making sure that these issues are brought to the attention of those that represent us in Springfield.

I hope you will be able to come to one of the events listed above to have your questions answered and to share with me, and your neighbors, your concerns and the issues you would like me to advocate for you. I look forward to hearing your thoughts!

Mary Mahady



**McHenry Township
Road District**
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

815-385-3076
fax 815-385-5874

James Condon, Road Commissioner

roaddistrict@mchenrytownship.com



ROAD COMMISSIONER RETIRES AFTER 20 YEARS

Thank you to Leon Van Every for 20 years of service to the McHenry Township Road District. For those who did not have the opportunity to meet or work with Leon over the past 20 years, I will tell you that you missed an opportunity to meet one of the most committed elected officials to the success of the McHenry Township Road District. Leon was initially hired as a foreman in 1995 and then elected to Road Commissioner in 2005.

Leon's hard work has resulted in a Road District having some of the best roads in the county, a staff of highly skilled employees to serve the Township and a budget that is in very good condition from a fiscal point of view. The last item perhaps being the most impressive, given the current state of so many other government entities.

Leon's accomplishments while working for the Road District are too many to list in this newsletter, but I do believe we should highlight some of the significant accomplishments:

- 1. Reconstruction of the Barnard Mill Road Bridge Deck** – This project was completed in a very short time period when compared to most bridge reconstructions and done at a much lower cost than the average bridge.
- 2. Township Recycling Program/Building** – As a result of Leon's leadership, the Road District has a very successful recycling program as noted later in this newsletter.
- 3. Replacement of the aging cold storage building** – In 2010/2011 the Road District replaced a failing cold storage structure with a modern masonry structure that will serve the Road District for many decades to come. By replacing the structure prior to the 2011 winter, we probably avoided what could have been a catastrophic failure of the old structure due to the significant snow events and the deteriorated condition of the structure.
- 4. Annual Touch a Truck Event** – Perhaps Leon's most publicly visible accomplishment is the annual Touch a Truck Event which provides an opportunity for families to enjoy a Saturday visiting the Township park and viewing the Township's and various vendor's equipment.



Again, thank you Leon for the many years of exemplary service to the Road District.

HELLO FROM THE NEW ROAD COMMISSIONER

First I would like to mention how excited I am to have the privilege of serving the Township in a new capacity as Road Commissioner. Since many of the township residents do not know me, I have listed below a quick summary about myself and my qualifications to serve as Road Commissioner.

As many of you may know I am a lifelong resident of McHenry Township with the exception of the time I spent at college and a few years after college working as a structural engineer at the Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant. I grew up in Cooney Heights in the City of McHenry and graduated from McHenry High School in 1980. I then attended Bradley University and obtained a degree in Civil Engineering in 1984. After that I worked for Sargent and Lundey as a structural engineer at the Braidwood plant mentioned above until 1987.

In 1987 I moved back to McHenry and had the good fortune of working for John Smith and Smith Engineering until 1995. It was during this time that I was introduced to the many services provided by the Road District as a result of working on various projects for several townships in McHenry County. It was also during this time that I obtained my Professional Engineering License thanks to the experience I gained while at Smith Engineering.

In 1995 I started a consulting firm in McHenry that initially specialized in civil engineering for private developments. Over the years the services we provided increased to include surveying and environmental engineering. Additionally, our clientele broadened to include public entities such as McHenry County Conservation District and several local school districts.

Prior to becoming Road Commissioner, I have served the Township as Trustee for over 8 years. In that time, I have become very familiar with the many tasks of the Road Commissioner. This is a result of reviewing the annual budgets and levies, approving the monthly bills and working with the Road District on several issues such as Non Dedicated Roadways over the years.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as the McHenry Township Road Commissioner. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or the staff at the Road District should you have any questions or want to discuss any matters pertaining to the Road District.



NEW TRAFFIC LAWS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016

HB 1453/PA 99-0212

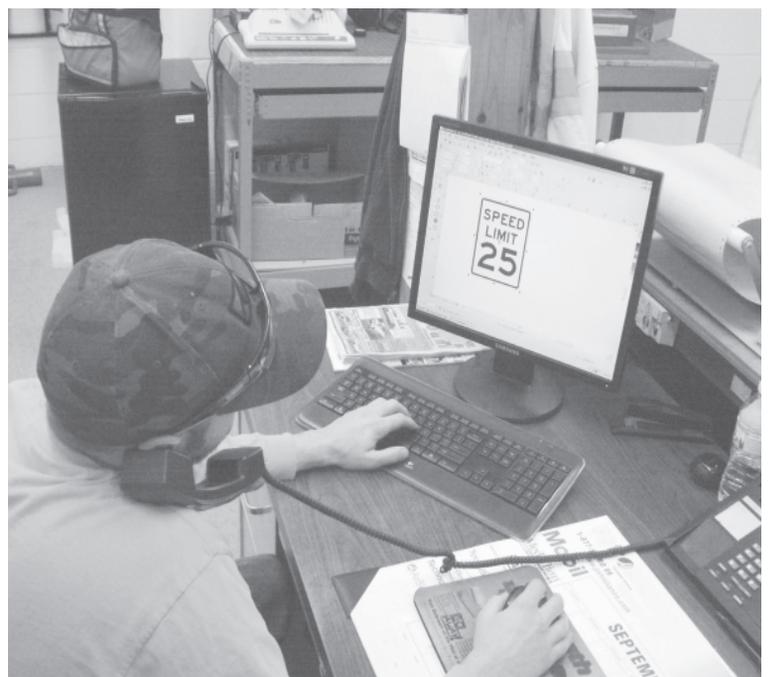
If a driver speeds through a construction or maintenance zone or passes a school bus at a rate of speed that is greater than 26 miles per hour of the posted speed limit, he/she may be charged with the offense of aggravated speeding.

SB-1899/PA 99-0401

Low speed vehicles are not allowed to operate on Illinois roadways unless they have been titled and registered with the Illinois Secretary of State and are equipped with parking brakes, steering wheel, brakes, seat belts, interior and exterior rearview mirrors, a headlight, a tail light and turn signals.

SB 1388/PA 99-0124

A temporary stop sign erected by the Illinois Department of Transportation shall be treated as a permanent stop sign or a traffic control device.



SPRING ROAD DISTRICT ACTIVITIES TO LOOK FOR

As the weather warms up you will see us put the snowplows away and switch to warmer weather tasks. These include preparing the roads for the annual paving program. This task includes tree trimming in these areas, replacement of driveway culverts where needed, re-ditching and drainage improvements and grinding of butt joints for matching into existing pavements and driveways. Other tasks include roadside garbage pick-up and the first mowing of the ditches prior to Memorial Day. Please watch for the Road District crews and proceed carefully in work zones so work can be completed safely and without incident.

SANDBAGS ARE AVAILABLE FOR FLOOD CONTROL

McHenry Township Road District and McHenry Township have purchased sand bags for pickup by residents for emergency flooding. Bags will be available Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. With one day advance notice, we will also provide sand; call the Road District office at 815-385-3076.



IT'S SPRING CLEAN-UP TIME AGAIN! NEVER BURN YARD DEBRIS ON ROADS

While doing your yard spring cleaning, do not burn leaves or other yard waste on the road. Fire will weaken the blacktop and eventually cause a pot hole. Burning on the road is a public safety issue and is against the law. Please do not burn on any road and be sure to follow the McHenry County Open Burning Ordinance.

The "McHenry County Public Health Ordinance: Open Burning of Landscape Waste" permits unincorporated residents to burn landscape waste on Saturdays and Sundays during April, May, October and November if the burn area meets the setback requirements of at least 100 feet from a school, business, church or house; and at least 50 feet from a barn, shed or detached garage.

For more information go to www.co.mchenry.il.us/county...department/.../open-burning-ordinance

2016 RECYCLING DATES

on the third Saturday of the month
(April through November)
from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

McHenry Township Road District Recycling Center

in the south side parking lot
at 3703 N. Richmond Road

Recycling drop-offs will not
be accepted at any other time.

April 16 May 21 June 18 July 16
August 20 October 15 November 19

(No recycling in September—closed for Touch-A-Truck)

Electronic Recycling: Clip the handy brochure on the next page and keep the information about our Electronic Scrap Recycling Program for your future recycling needs.

Brush Recycling: Branches and twigs must be no larger than eight inches in diameter and ten feet in length. Grass clippings, leaves and rubbish will not be accepted. Road District personnel will chip all branches into usable mulch.

The Road District dumps truckloads of wood chips in the southeast corner of the McHenry Township Recreation Center's parking lot, 3519 N. Richmond Road, behind the Moose Lodge. Wood chips are available at no charge to Township residents. No commercial enterprises.

The recycling programs are funded in part by residents and are for **McHenry Township residents only**.



Electronic Recycling



McHenry Township E-Scrap Facts

McHenry Township Road District crews regularly find computers, monitors and other electronics dumped on our roadsides.

Our new E-Scrap Recycling Program, partially funded by The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, has an accessible drop-off location and is intended to motivate residents to dispose of their used computers and electronics in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity funded the study of *The Assessment of the Infrastructure To Manage Electronic Scrap in Illinois* and has recorded e-scrap generation rates for McHenry County at 2,385 tons in 2007 and are estimating 2,981 tons for the year 2010.

Discarded computers and other electronics are the fastest growing portion of our waste stream. Less than 10% of discarded computers are currently recycled and most are improperly thrown into the garbage.

Your personal computer may contain up to 1,000 toxins that can cause damage to the nervous system, the brain, the kidneys, and can cause birth defects and cancer. A typical computer monitor alone contains 4 to 8 pounds of lead. This adds up to a real problem when you consider that an estimated 315 million desktop and laptop computers in the U.S. were discarded in 2004.

McHenry Township Road District accepted and recycled 7.4 tons of e-waste in 2014. Diverting electronic scrap from our landfills protects the environment and public health. Eventually, we hope to add more items to our recycling program.



**3703 N Richmond Road
Johnsburg, IL 60051
Phone: 815-385-3076
Fax: 815-385-5874
roaddistrict@mchenrytownship.com**



It is up to YOU to be environmentally responsible!

Do NOT dispose of electronic equipment with your regular garbage.

When you recycle, you are protecting your environment.



These days, responsible computing means much more than not spreading viruses and not hacking into someone else's system. The e-scrap that results from disposing of your electronics is highly toxic.



McHenry Township Road District

RECYCLING CENTER ACCEPTS E-SCRAP

McHenry Township residents can drop off their old electronic equipment, functioning or not, at our Recycling Center. We will then palletize the electronic discards for shipment to an end market, where they will be refurbished, demanufactured or electronic scrap recycled.

You will be asked to show a photo ID with your address at the recycling site. The recycling program is for McHenry Township residential homeowners only, no out of state residents, residents of other townships, or commercial enterprises. If the staff on duty, for whatever reason, feels the person requesting recycling is a contractor or lives out of the area, that person will be turned away. This program is funded by our residents and is for township residents only.

Local governments, schools, businesses and non-for-profit organizations, call to set up an appointment for us to accept your electronic scrap.

Participants in this program are required to sign a release form that the computer is deleted of personal data. Discarded electronics will be accepted at no charge except there is a \$10 charge for each monitor. No televisions will be accepted.

Recycling drop off:

in the south parking lot
McHenry Township
3703 North Richmond Road
just north of Johnsburg Road

the third Saturday of each month
from April through November
except for the month of September

open from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Recycling drop-offs will not be accepted
at any other time.



McHenry Township
Road District's

RECYCLING CENTER

*McHenry Township
residents only
no commercial enterprises*

Accepted at no charge:

- computer hard drives
- keyboards
- mice
- printers
- scanners
- word processors
- calculators
- battery backups
- VCRs & DVD players
- ink cartridges
- telephones
- batteries (household & automotive)
- eyeglasses (in cooperation with McHenry Lions Club)

—There is a \$10 charge
for monitors—

—NO TELEVISIONS—

FOLLOW ROAD WORK TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Warm weather means it is time to repair roads. Road Work signs are posted far enough ahead to give you time to adjust your speed for any unusual conditions.

When you see these signs, workers will be working close to your traffic lane. Follow the signs and adjust your speed, be alert and keep a safe distance between your vehicle and all traffic barriers.

The minimum fine for speeding in a construction zone when workers are present is \$375 for the first offense and \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

Use caution when approaching a flag person. Slow down and be prepared to obey the signals of the flag person. Drivers must stop if signaled to do so.

Be alert and remain stopped until signaled to proceed. When directed to proceed, drive slowly, and be prepared to stop.

In addition to road repair and maintenance, tree trimming is a year-round Road District project when drivers must be alert and adjust their speed.



2016 ROAD PROGRAM

As you may know we spend approximately \$800,000 annually on upgrading and repaving roadways in the township. This year we have developed the following preliminary list of roadways we hope to repave, including some short stretches of municipal roadways that will be included in the paving but paid for by the respective municipality. Please keep in mind that this is just a preliminary list and may need to be reduced based on actual bids received in the near future.

Lily Lake Rd - McHenry Township limits
Bayview Lane
Pleasant View Dr/Bridge Street
Nippersink Dr/Vern St
Nippersink Dr/Ray St/Little St
Miller Road – east of Spring Grove Road
River Park Subdivision
Oakwood Shores
McCullom Lake Rd – west of Ringwood Rd

LINCOLN ROAD CULVERT REPLACEMENT

One additional project we tentatively have planned for 2016 is the replacement of the Lincoln Road culverts located approximately 1,400' west of Cuhlman Road. Currently there are two 30" culverts that are in very poor condition. Additionally, beavers that frequent the area have built dams in these culverts in the past and the current configuration of the culverts makes removal of the beaver dams difficult. With the assistance of HR Green we are currently working through the design and approval process and hope to be constructing a new concrete box culvert this summer.

MAILBOX VS. SNOW – THE GREAT BATTLE

As many of you are aware we frequently find mailboxes that have been damaged during snow storms as a result of the snow plowing activities. This is caused by one of two occurrences, the first being the snow plow actually hitting the mailbox which rarely occurs. The more common cause is a very wet, heavy snow and when plowed results in a significant force against a mailbox causing it to be damaged. If the mailbox is not constructed sturdy enough, this will result in the mailbox being pushed over.

The Road District would like to remind all residents that if the mailbox is hit by the snow plow we will be glad to repair or replace the mailbox with a standard 4"x4" post and mailbox. However, if the damage is caused by the snow and not actual contact from the snow plow, the Road District is not required to repair or replace the mailbox. Based on this, we ask that you frequently check your mailbox condition and make any needed improvements throughout the year.

Please note that if the Road District does replace a mailbox, often times we can only do a temporary replacement due to the ground being frozen. In these situations, we will install the temporary mailbox and will be back in the spring to install the new permanent mailbox once the frost is out of the ground.





McHenry Township

3703 N. Richmond Road
Johnsburg, IL 60051

Monday thru Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SUPERVISOR
Craig M. Adams

ASSESSOR
Mary Mahady

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
James Condon

TOWN CLERK
Marsha Nelson

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
Doug Carlile
Amy Mercurio
Neal Schepler

PRESRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 32
McHenry, IL
60050

ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Join State Senator Pamela Althoff and McHenry Township

for *Green Spring Shred Day*

Saturday, May 14 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

at McHenry Township ~ 3703 North Richmond Road
in the Township Park Parking Lot



Free Shred Day will also provide volunteers to unload your car!

Clean out your household! Empty your file cabinets while helping the environment by bringing your outdated documents papers, CDs, film, and/or x-rays. Bring it all to McHenry Township parking lot for safe and confidential shredding! You will receive a Certificate of Destruction.

AMS Store & Shred
13 Prosper Court
Lake in the Hills, IL 60156
800-262-2344

Sen. Althoff's District Office:
5400 West Elm , Suite 103
McHenry, IL 60050
815-455-6330
pamela@pamelaalthoff.net