

McHenry Township

www.mchenrytownship.com

815-385-5605

Fall/Winter 2018 Newsletter

3703 North Richmond Road, Johnsburg, Illinois 60051

THE NOVEMBER ELECTION'S REFERENDUM

“Shall the Road District of the Township of McHenry be abolished with all the rights, powers, duties, property, liabilities, obligations and responsibilities being assumed by the Township of McHenry?”

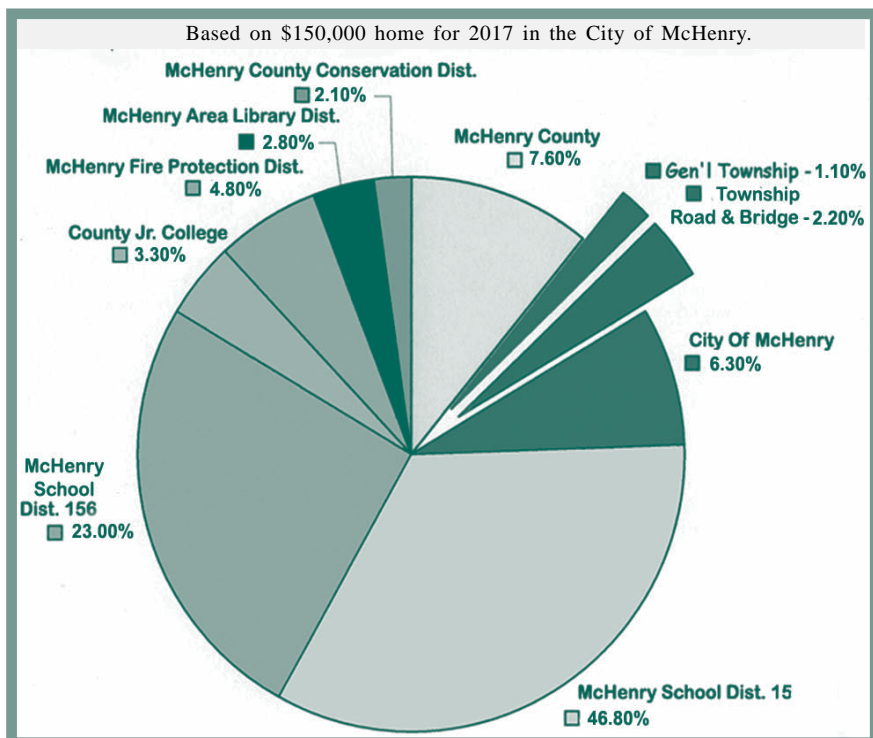
This is the public question that will appear on all McHenry Township voters' ballots in the General Election.

- ▶ **If voters decide to vote 'no'** the Road District will continue as-is.
- ▶ **If the voters vote "yes"** for this referendum, the Road District would cease to exist and all of its rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities would be transferred to the Township Board of Trustees. The elected Highway Commissioner office would cease to exist. This action would take place after the 2021 Election.

As a voter in McHenry Township, you need to become educated and do your homework on this question before you cast your vote one way or another. Do your own research to detect facts vs. fiction.

The proponents have not publicly produced a plan of action on how they propose to administrate the McHenry Township Road District if the Highway Commissioner is eliminated and absorbed into the Township.

At present, the Board approves the budget yearly with the authority to change line items in the budget; they also review, audit and approve the Road Districts expenses on a monthly basis. Under the current system there already is a system of checks and balances and the Road District budget already has oversight from the Board of Trustees.



Will property tax bills be reduced by combining the Road District with the Township? The graph illustrates the percentage of property taxes that are paid to each taxing body. Eliminating the McHenry Township Road District will combine Township Road & Bridge tax levy with McHenry Township tax levy; combining the two does not necessarily lessen the tax bill.

By passing this referendum, which would eliminate the Township Road District, there is no guarantee that property taxes will decrease. There could be an unforeseen increase to tax bills because there is no project plan in place.

One point is definite, the abolishment of the Road District, according to current Illinois State Statue, prohibits the reinstatement of that Township Road District. Once the Road District is gone it cannot be reinstated.



McHenry Township
Craig M. Adams, Supervisor

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

815-385-5605
fax 815-385-5671

supervisor@mchenrytownship.com

RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE

Wednesday, October 25 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
at McHenry Township Hall

This will be the last Rules of the Road Review class offered this year by the Illinois Office of the Secretary of State. The next class will not be until March 2019.

If you will be taking the Illinois Driver's License renewal examination during the next few months, it is to your benefit to take this class. The course updates you on the current Rules of the Road and prepares you for the general written and road sign exam. At this class you will learn about the actual road test and take a practice written exam.

The class is FREE however reservations are required; call McHenry Township Front Desk at 815-385-5605.

Winter Coat Give-Away

McHenry Township

3703 N. Richmond Rd.

from mid to the end of November

Snow may not have hit Illinois just yet but the colder weather is coming. Are you prepared? If you aren't, a local coat giveaway may be able to help. We are sharing the warmth!

McHenry Township is receiving a generous donation courtesy of Johnsburg Knights of Columbus. **Free, new and gently used coats, hats and gloves** will be available to our community residents who need help keeping warm this winter.

Cold weather gear will be given out while supplies last. There will be a variety of sizes from children through adult.

We do not have the exact date as of the printing of this newsletter but watch our website and Facebook pages.

The Illinois General Election will be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018 Election Day Polling Hours 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Find Sample Ballots: <http://mchenry-il.connect4.clarityelections.com/sample-ballot-locator/>

General Elections occur in every even-numbered year for Congress and some state and local government offices in the United States. Other states and local jurisdictions hold elections in odd-numbered years.

Every four years, Americans elect a president and vice president and governors. Every two years, Americans elect all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and approximately one-third of the 100 members of the U.S. Senate. Senators serve staggered terms of six years each.

The General Election is held to determine who will be elected to hold office. In the General Election, voters make the final determination from among the party candidates listed on the ballot.

If your schedule prevents you from voting on Election Day, cast your ballot before November 6 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, October 22 to Friday, October 26
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(closed Saturday, October 27 & Sunday, October 28)

Monday, October 29 to Friday, November 2
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 3
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

(Closed Sunday, November 4)

Monday, November 5
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

<http://www.mchenrycountyhousing.org/>

McHenry County Housing Authority (MCHA), 1108 N. Seminary in Woodstock will be taking applications for the Winter 2017-18 energy assistance programs on an “Appointment Only Basis”. Call 815-338-7752 to make an appointment to apply for the LIHEAP or other programs. If you are a senior, you may apply at Senior Services call 815-344-3555. For eligibility requirements and more information about MCHA programs go to their website at www.mchenrycountyhousing.org

This year’s Enrollment dates:

- **October** — Seniors and People with Disabilities.
- **November** — Households with children under the age of 6 and utility disconnected households.
- **December** — All other eligible households.

*McHenry County Housing Authority may run out of funds prior to May 31, 2019.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a program that helps eligible low-income households to pay for winter energy services. LIHEAP provides a one-time benefit to eligible households for use towards energy costs payment amount is based on four criteria: income, household size, fuel type and geographic location. Eligibility is according to your household’s combined income.

You may be eligible to receive assistance under the LIHEAP program if your household’s combined income is at or below the following levels shown in the chart. If you rent, and your heat and/or electric is included in the rent then your rent must be greater than 30% of your income in order to be eligible to receive benefits.

of People living in Household and Household’s Gross Income for 30 days prior to Application Date (Income Limits are Subject to Change)

- 1.....\$1,518
- 2.....\$2,058
- 3.....\$2,598
- 4.....\$3,138
- 5.....\$3,678
- 6.....\$4,218



When you call to make your appointment, applicants will be informed as to what documentation to bring with them when they go to their interview.

VOLUNTEER “BELL RINGERS” NEEDED! Help the Salvation Army serve our community.

McHenry Township is an Extension Site for Salvation Army Emergency Assistance and the Back-To-School programs. The Red Kettle campaign is Salvation Army’s largest fundraiser and all the bell ringers are volunteers.



Local Salvation Army Assistance funds are donated to the Salvation Army from money raised by the Red Kettle Program. This assistance is similar to the township’s Emergency Assistance and is in addition to the government funded programs. It provides services to families on an emergency basis.

The Salvation Army is a faith based, non-for-profit agency. Their assistance program is subject to the availability of these private resources. All qualified township residents can apply for Salvation Army Emergency Assistance

McHenry Township General Assistance administers Salvation Army Emergency Assistance for residents residing in the 60050, 60051, 60072 and 60097 zip codes. Salvation Army Emergency Assistance is similar to the Township’s Emergency Assistance and is in addition to the government funded programs.

One of the most recognized traditional holiday symbols is a Salvation Army bell ringer with a Red Kettle standing in front of a grocery store or shopping mall seeking donations. Contribute by volunteering (alone or as a group) to be a bell ringer or dropping a donation into a kettle as a gift of love during this holiday season.

Salvation Army of McHenry County is seeking volunteers to ring a bell to encourage shoppers and passersby to donate towards this important project that helps many needy McHenry County residents.

For online donations or to sign-up as a volunteer to ring a bell to raise money, go to <http://salarmycl.org/> or call Jeffery Pal at 815-455-2769. Kettles go out November 9 and remain through December 24.

IT'S TIME FOR FAMILIES TO CELEBRATE AROUND A HOLIDAY FEAST yet many of our low-income neighbors will have little or no meal to gather round this holiday.

During this festive season, many of our hungry neighbors too often struggle putting any food on the table daily, let alone prepare a special holiday meal. Share your festive spirit! Feed a hungry family this yuletide! This joyous season, think about helping people who might not have enough to eat by making a generous donation to the Holiday Meal Box Program at your local food pantry. Northern Illinois Food Bank offers Holiday Meal Boxes which cost \$16 each and contain all the fixings for a family size meal so that area low-income families enjoy a traditional holiday dinner.

In McHenry Township we have two food pantries and both offer this program during the holiday season to their clients. By donating to your local food pantry you can provide a Holiday meal for a low-income family.

Mail donations to: P.O. Box 282, McHenry, IL 60051

FISH of McHenry Food Pantry

3515 N. Richmond Road, Johnsburg, IL, 60051

Or donate on-line at <http://www.fishofmchenry.org/>

815-344-4717; Pantry Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays; 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.

3rd Tuesday of each month; 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

FISH Food Pantry serves 60050, 60051 and 60072 zip code areas.

Mail donations to:

Neighbors Food Pantry of Wonder Lake

3506 N. East Wonder Lake Rd., Wonder Lake, IL 60097

Or donate on-line at <http://wlfoodpantry.com/>

815-355-5459; Pantry Hours:

Wednesdays; 10:00 to 11:45 a.m.

Thursdays; 8:00 to 10:45 a.m.

Wonder Lake Food Pantry serves Wonder Lake, Ringwood, Greenwood, McCullom Lake and Woodstock.

HAPPY HOLLY DAYS in Downtown McHenry ~ Saturday & Sunday November 17-18

Kick off the 2018 holiday season with our celebration throughout Downtown McHenry!

Saturday, November 17 Events in Veteran's Park

4 to 8 p.m. HOLIDAY MAGIC MARKET: McHenry's Outdoor Food & Craft Market adding Joy of the Season! Join the fun! For more details and to participate please contact Tina Conaway at the City of McHenry at: tconaway@ci.mchenry.il.us

6 p.m. ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING: Join in the singing with the Christmas Carolers at the City of McHenry's Annual "Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony" in Veterans Park.

Sunday, November 18

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CHRISTMAS WALK: The McHenry Area Downtown Business Association's presents its Happy Holiday Shopping Season event - Bring the family to shop, sample and play the afternoon away. Specials in stores, Characters, Games and Treats and much more awaits! See the grand opening of the Santa House! Many restaurants and specialty shops will be open for your shopping pleasure! Free Trolley & Horse Wagon Rides run 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

2 p.m. TOYS FOR TOTS PARADE: BENEFITS MCHENRY TOWNSHIP CHILDREN

The 25th Annual Christmas Toys For Tots Christmas Parade with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots Program. The color guard will lead off the parade on Main Street. and moves to Green Street., north to Pearl, east to Riverside Drive, north to Broad Street, to Veterans Park.



Each year hundreds of motorcycles participate in the parade and every rider donates a toy. Spectators are urged to bring a NEW unwrapped toy (no stuffed animals) to hand to bring your to the Marine's "Toy Drop-Off" located in Veterans Park. What better way to spread holiday cheer? After all... 'tis the Season for Giving! Don't forget the gifts are for children of all ages including young teens. These toys stay in our area and are distributed to the children of low-income families in our community.



WINTER FAMILY SLEDDING IN MCHENRY TOWNSHIP PARK!

Children and adults revel in the winter thrill of sledding down our 300 foot snowy sledding run. It's a traditional winter family experience! The downhill sledding path extends out past the soccer fields, offering a safe obstacle free sledding.

This year a barrier of pine trees was planted on the east side marking the perimeter of the sledding hill. Permanent fences were erected to denote sledding areas. Stay within the downhill path which is designated by the fences at the top of the hill. Do not sled beyond these fences.

The Bunny Hill on the east side of the sledding hill is delineated with newly erected slatted fencing. The smaller Bunny Hill is geared toward younger children only.

As a precaution, please do not climb up the sledding hill in the designated downhill sledding path! For your safety always walk up the hill in the wide platform walkway with railings provided specifically for uphill traffic.

Obey the township's posted sledding rules. Sledding is exhilarating but always keep in mind that there are dangers with this activity. Constantly use caution! Children **must** be supervised by an adult.

The area is lighted after dark for sledding until 10 p.m. There is ample parking, an enclosed winter shelter with a fireplace for warming, picnic tables and an indoor bathroom facility. Firewood is provided by the Township.

There should be at least 6" of snow (so that when the snow is packed down no grass is visible). When posted, **obey "SLEDDING HILL CLOSED" signs** as the hill is then closed due to safety reasons.

As long as you opt for safety first, sledding is an exciting winter generational ritual. Sledding is great fun, but it can also lead to serious injuries so please sled with caution.

McHenry Township is NOT responsible for injuries. The Township is patrolled by the Johnsburg Police.



SLEDDING HILL RULES

**SLEDDING HILL IS NOT SUPERVISED
USE AT YOUR OWN RISK**

Hours: dawn to 10 p.m.

- Obey "SLEDDING HILL CLOSED" signs.
- Snowboards & skis are strictly prohibited.
- No chain sledding or building of jumps on the hill.
- Sled in designated area (downhill path) only and sledders must be seated at all times.
- Use caution when returning up the hill and stay on the designated uphill walkways.
- Children must be supervised by an adult.
- Smaller children, please use Bunny Hill.
- Lights turn on at dusk and turn off at 10:00 p.m.
- Pets & alcoholic beverages are strictly prohibited.
- EMERGENCIES CALL 911.

WINTER INDOOR WALKING PROGRAM Monday through Friday from 7 to 8:30 a.m.

If winter weather keeps you indoors and you need to take a walk and stretch your legs, the Township's Indoor Town Hall Walking Program is for you! McHenry Township Hall at 3703 N. Richmond Road is open before Township office normal business hours.

We open the Township Hall for morning exercisers. You are in a climate controlled atmosphere and able to dress comfortably; no worry about traffic, wind, snow or ice!

Restrooms and water are in the entry hall. The best of the deal is there are no costly health club charges and no reservations required.



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

STAFF UPDATES

We are extremely pleased to announce that we have added a new Deputy Assessor to our staff.

Terri previously worked in McHenry County in the Supervisor of Assessments office for 12 years and then in Winnebago County where she held the position of Deputy Supervisor of Assessments for 4 years. We are delighted to have her back here in McHenry County and working in our office, along with all of her experience and knowledge of the assessment process!



Welcome to McHenry Township
Terri Reeves, McHenry Township Deputy Assessor

RESIDENCY LETTERS

When a property is sold, we send a letter to the new owner to welcome them to the township and to determine if there is a change in the homeowner exemption status. The letter asks that you fill out the form and send it back along with proof of your residency at that address. In order to do this, we need to see official identification that shows **the new property address** as your address, i.e. a driver's license or voter registration card. Paperwork from a mortgage company or utility bill is not sufficient as those do not prove that you live in the property, just that you own it and are paying the bills. Please understand that we do this because only owner occupied properties are eligible to receive these exemption benefits, which amount to savings on the tax bill, for you, the resident, and it is up to this office to determine the eligibility. If we do not receive a response, we will assume the property is not owner occupied and remove the exemptions.

As always, please make sure you check your assessment notice and tax bill to make sure you are receiving all of the exemptions to which you are entitled. A missed exemption can be corrected if it is pointed out in a timely manner.

DISTRESSED PROPERTY TIP LINE

Are you aware of property in your neighborhood that is in poor condition due to having been vacant for a long time? Please call the office if you have information on a property that you think we should know about and we will check it out. As hard as we try, we do not get into every neighborhood every year so we may not be aware of a change in the property condition.

SENIOR FREEZE

As you may already be aware, the income limit for the senior freeze has been raised from \$55,000 to \$65,000 for 2018. This amount includes all household income (from all residents of the property) including the gross amount of any social security income. The application for this exemption is requested to be in the county by July 1 of the assessment year but if you are just realizing that you might qualify for this, please call or come in and we will gladly assist you. You are required to show proof of income (usually your tax return) and the form must be filed yearly. Please be aware that if you qualify, the exemption **freezes your assessment, not your taxes**. If this sounds confusing, don't worry...we will be happy to explain it all!

KNOW YOUR PROPERTY RECORD CARD

When is the last time you checked to see if we have the correct information on your property record card? This is the information on which we base the value of your home so it is important to make sure it's correct.

You can check your property's information on our website, <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/property-search.html> or call the office to speak to one of our capable staff members who can tell you what our records show. If you have removed an improvement (i.e. deck, fin basement, garage) that was previously there which would have added value to your assessment, we can correct that. We can also correct any information that may have been erroneously been added to your on the record a long time ago, but was never removed. So if you haven't checked for a while, we recommend that you do.

EXTENDED HOURS FOR APPEALS

As always, we will again be offering some extended evening and weekend hours during the 30-day appeal period. If you cannot call or come to the office during regular business hours we want to make sure you have an opportunity to get your questions answered regarding your assessment and the appeal process.

The extended hours are done **by appointment only** so please call the office, 815-385-0175, for available dates and times which will be listed on our website's homepage.

NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES

As we work to make sure we have all the correct information on the properties in the township, you may see the assessment office vehicles and staff in your neighborhood. It is the job of this office to update records and photos of every property and this process takes time.

We cannot complete an inspection of every property every year so the assessment procedure is done on a rotating basis. If the staff cannot contact anyone when they arrive, they will leave a notice on the door that they were there. We ask that you call the office so we can verify that we have the correct information and complete the update of your property. The Assessor's office appreciates your cooperation.

Fighting for You!

As we approach the fall and the upcoming November elections, not only will you be voting for state and local candidates, you should also be aware that there are several referendums that you will be asked to vote on as well. Depending on where you live, you may see one, or several referendums on the ballot, and each one will have an impact on you.

I understand that some people find it easy to be complacent about local politics, but I do not. I believe these are important issues that we all need to focus on because they directly affect our everyday lives. When our local elected officials are deciding whether or not to adopt or change something, we should gather all the information on that particular issue we need, to make an informed decision. This is your opportunity to make your voice heard.

The best way to have your voice heard is to **vote**. Do your homework, engage in discussions with friends and neighbors, listen to all sides on each issue and then make your decision based on what you think is best for the community. If you choose not to vote, you leave the decision up to those that do.

I urge you to go to the McHenry County Clerk website to locate your sample ballot that lists the items you will be asked to vote on so that you can do your research. Your opinion DOES matter and your vote DOES count!

Mary Mahady

As Fall Approaches....

***We send our best wishes to all
for a safe and
enjoyable holiday season!***

To register for activities
on the SENIOR CENTER pages
or for more detailed information

call Jane Gregory

Senior Center Activities Director

815-344-3555

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

**Tyrone Power – Not Just A Pretty Face,
He can Act too!**
Friday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m.



Our own *Carol Bradley* is back at with another wonderful bio-graphical presentation in her fun and unique style! One of the very best! A romantic, swashbuckling handsome star of the Golden age of Hollywood! During WWII, he enlisted in the Marines and taught young men how to fly. He could out fence Errol Flynn & Basil Rathbone. Married 3 times and 3 children, starred in over

50 films: Suez, The Eddy Duchin Story, Lloyds of London, Mark of Zorro & Blood and Sand. No fee. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 17.

**UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO
DEMENTIA-RELATED BEHAVIOR**
Wednesday, October 24 at 10:00 a.m.

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior is a powerful form of communication and is one of the primary ways for people with dementia to communicate their needs and feelings as the ability to use language is lost. However, some behaviors can present real challenges for caregivers to manage. Join us to learn to decode behavioral messages, identify common behavior triggers, and learn strategies to help intervene with some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease. No fee. Registration required.

UNDERSTANDING OPEN ENROLLMENT 2019
Wednesday, October 3 at 11:00 a.m.

This is your chance to better understand how Open Enrollment works, so you can make an informed decision and choose the best plan for your needs. *From October 15 – December 7, 2018*, anyone 65 or older will have the opportunity to change your Medicare Part C Advantage plans and/or your Medicare Part D Prescription plans. Our Information & Assistance specialists will discuss your options, provide information on the new Rx plans, review Medicare's Plan Finder, answer your questions and make appointments for individuals. Join Bonnie Saban and other Senior Services staff members *Valerie & Maggie* for this important presentation. No fee however registration required.

RTA TRANSPORTATION
Wednesday, October 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Join Kristen Salkas, Mobility Outreach Coordinator, from the RTA to learn about accessible CTA, Metra and Pace buses and trains and how to use them. Stay informed about public transportation options in order to get to appointments, maintain social connections, and enjoy independent travel! No Fee! Registration required.



Registration required.

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:

- The benefits of using accessible travel on CTA, Pace, and Metra
- How to plan trips on CTA, Pace, and Metra
- An overview of Ventra
- Information on how to get a reduced fare or a ride free permit
- Q&A session with an RTA representative

**Senior Services invites you to join them:
"GREASE" FIRESIDE DINNER THEATRE**
Thursday, October 25 Fort Atkinson, WI

Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950s. Head "greaser" Danny Zuko and new (good) girl Sandy Dumbrowski try to relive the high romance of their "Summer Nights." Bus departs the Senior Center promptly at 9:00 a.m. Bus arrives back to the Senior Center approximately 5:30 p.m. \$105 members/\$110 non-members. Call Jane for more information at 815-344-3555.

“So Long Fall” PARTY **Friday, November 16 at 1:00 p.m.**

Join Senior Services at the McHenry Township Senior Center for an afternoon of energetic entertainment to welcome and celebrate autumn. Enjoy a truly unique performance by singer/songwriter Todd Donnelley, who will treat us to his fantastic vocals and steel pan drum performance. Dessert and coffee will be served, and everyone will be entered for one of our many door prizes. Fee: \$5. Reservation deadline: Wednesday, November 14.

SPOOKTACULAR Masquerade Bingo Party **Wednesday, October 31 at 12:30 p.m.**

Come to the Haunted Senior Center Halloween celebration to play Trick-or-Treat Bingo! It's a bingo party in which everybody comes incognito. Awards will be presented for the funniest, scariest, most original, and best overall costumes, and a special dessert and door prizes will be provided, thanks to Heritage Woods of McHenry. Reservation deadline is Monday, October 29. Cost: \$2.

TURKEY SHOOT BINGO **Wednesday, November 21 at 12:30 p.m.**

Celebrate Thanksgiving at our 11th annual Senior Center Bingo party! You will 'shoot the Turkey' by winning games of bingo, and bring home the 'turkey'...which are door prizes of gift cards to area stores or holiday themed gifts, thanks to Three Oaks in Cary. 'Gobble up' a wonderful seasonal dessert at the coffee break. Fee is \$2 and reservation deadline is Friday, November 16.



ANNUAL CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR! **Wednesday, November 28**

Just in time for the holidays! Senior Services will be hosting a Craft & Vendor fair on Wednesday, November 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A wonderful variety of vendors will be represented. For more information, contact Jane Gregory at 815-344-3555.



DECK THE HALLS **4th ANNUAL 'TRIM THE TREE' PARTY** **Friday, November 30 at 10:00 a.m.**

Join the Senior Center staff as we Deck the Hall of the Senior Center! Holiday tunes will be playing as we enjoy a Christmas cookie (or two!) and a cup of hot chocolate while trimming the trees and decorating for the upcoming holiday festivities Thanks to Journey Care & Crystal Pines for sponsoring this event.

There is no fee, but a reservation is requested so our little elves bake enough goodies!

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS **A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION** **Friday, December 14 at 11:30 a.m.**

You are invited to a party to celebrate the Christmas season with a scrumptious luncheon and holiday cheer! Senior Services is delighted to bring the spirit of the holidays to you with a joyous holiday celebration at the McHenry Township Senior Center.

After a superb holiday feast, you will join in song with Johnny Gray who will delight you with all your Christmas favorites. Thank you to Heritage Woods of McHenry and Fair Oaks for co-sponsoring this event. Fee: \$8. Reservation deadline: Friday, December 7.



NEW YEAR GALA

Thursday, January 10 at 11:30 a.m.

Help celebrate and ring in the New Year in style with Senior Services at the McHenry Township Senior Center! Enjoy great food and a special dessert, followed by entertainment by the charismatic and versatile vocals of Sandi Haynes. Sandi brings back the great sounds from the 20's to the 70's. There will be lots of audience participation, sing-a-longs, dancing and memories. A big thank you to Heritage Woods of McHenry for co-sponsoring this event. Fee: \$8. Reservation deadline is Friday, January 4.

COMPUTER CLASSES

Senior Services offers monthly computer classes from the novice student level, to the more advanced. If you have a specific computer, iPad, Kindle, laptop or other technology related interest, we will match you with the instructor you need. Classes available include: 'Beginners Computer', 'Internet', 'Basic Word I & II', 'Windows 10', 'Facebook' and 'iPad'. Classes are formed according to interest expressed, so please call Jane at 815-344-3555 if you have a particular need, for current classes scheduled or to register.

SENIOR CENTER MOVIE MATINEE

Show time is at 12:00 p.m.

No admission charge!

Complimentary popcorn is available for all who attend. Come and enjoy the wall sized picture and 'easy to hear' surround sound system!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Friday, October 5: No Movie- Octoberfest Party
- Friday, October 19: Eddie The Eagle (2016)
- Friday, November 2: Phantom Thread (2017)
- Friday, December 7: BIG (1988)
- Friday, December 21: Victoria & Abdul (2017)
- Friday, January 4: Spotlight (2015)
- Friday, January 18: The Greatest Showman (2017)
- Friday, February 1: The Book of Henry (2017)
- Friday, February 15: The Post (2017)



'BE MY VALENTINE' BINGO

Wednesday, February 13th at 12:30 p.m.

Let me call you sweetheart at the Valentine Bingo Party! Be sure to wear your red, white, and pink and join us for a special afternoon of raffles, prizes, and fun! Enjoy a yummy dessert at the break, too – all in the theme of the holiday. Fee is \$2 and reservation deadline is Monday, February 11.

MARDI GRAS

Friday, February 22 at 11:30 a.m.

at the McHenry Township Hall

You will want to be first in line for a reservation for THIS party! Put on a mask, throw on some beads and join in the fun at the McHenry Township Hall! Following sumptuous New Orleans style luncheon, Senior Services welcomes The Sinful Saints Dixieland Band to bring down the house! This 6-piece ensemble will get your toes a'tapping with the true sound of the south. Many thanks to Journey Care, Fox Point of McHenry, Dimensions Health Care, and FirstLight HomeCare of McHenry for co-sponsoring this event. Fee: \$8. Reservation deadline: Friday, February 15.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

The first Wednesday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

Thanks to the McHenry Township Fire Protection District, EMTs conduct FREE blood pressure checks at the Senior Center once a month. If you haven't had your blood pressure screened recently, we encourage you to stop by and let them check it for you. No reservations needed and it is on a first come, first served basis!

FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS

The 2nd & 3rd Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Attorney Jenette Schwemler will be available to seniors at Senior Services to answer legal questions seniors have regarding estate planning, Medicaid benefits, veteran benefits, divorce, wills, or other general legal inquires. Semi-private consultations are available and there is \$5 deposit required for the service. Call Jane at 815-344-3555 to make your appointment.

FIT & STRONG CLASS

Are you an older adult 60+ years old with arthritis? Do you suffer with stiffness or pain in your lower back, hips, knees, ankles, or feet? Are you not currently participating in exercise regularly or have you NEVER exercised?

If YES is your answer to any of the above questions, the Fit and Strong is for you! **'Fit and Strong'** is an award winning, evidence-based physical activity and behavior change program developed by the University of Illinois at Chicago, Center for Research on Health Aging. This program is proven to reduce the symptoms of arthritis and promote an active lifestyle.

Sessions are led by trained, certified exercise instructors and is **FREE**. Learn about the benefits of physical activity, how to manage arthritis, how to exercise safely, and how to develop and maintain a more active lifestyle.

Classes will run for 8 weeks in a row, beginning February 25, meeting on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Senior Services, so for more information or to sign up, please contact Jane Gregory at 815-344-3555 to get a Medical Release for the class.

**For information or
TO REGISTER FOR ACTIVITIES
on the Senior Center pages
contact Jane Gregory
call 815-344-3555**

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

**We are on Facebook, go to
McHenry Township Senior Center, Illinois
and click on "Like"**



WINTER TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS & ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Instead of driving in hazardous winter elements, senior citizens & adults with disabilities should use paratransit transportation service. This winter maintain your independence with the comfort and safety of township door-to-door para transportation.

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 trying to maneuver a wheel chair or walker to the street for a curbside pickup as with Pace service.

**McHenry Township's
bus service operates
Monday through Friday
between the hours of
8 a.m. and 3 p.m.**

Our service is for residents living **within the township in zip code 60050, 60051, 60097 and 60072 areas**. Buses operate within McHenry Township and also drop-off and pick-up passengers for Centegra Medical Centers and McHenry Community Health Center.

STEP #1: New riders 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. Pace Dispatch schedules our bus.

**STEP #2: Call PACE
to schedule rides on the township bus
Monday thru Friday 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
800-451-4599 ~ (TTY) 888-454-4724**

**(Be sure to tell the dispatcher
you are calling for township bus service.)**

Riders are asked for a donation of \$1 per ride for each one-way, door-to-door trip. As always, it has been the policy of the Township that any rider unable to pay the fare will always be provided service.



McHenry Township
ROAD DISTRICT

Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

815-385-3076
fax 815-385-5874

roaddistrict@mchenrytownship.com

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT'S TOUCH-A-TRUCK 2018

Once again we had a super turnout and fantastic weather for the annual Touch-A-Truck event. The displays included vehicles such as: heavy construction backhoes and graders, farm equipment, emergency equipment such as fire trucks and police cars and probably the most visited item was Clarke's helicopter.

Thank you to all who attended and in particular to our partners in the event who were kind enough to provide a majority of the equipment, displays and their time. Without our volunteer exhibitors this event would not be possible!

The Road District would also like to extend a special thanks to the Moose Lodge for their much-appreciated cooperation in allowing us to utilize their property for our overflow parking. Finally, I would like to thank our staff of the township Road District for all the long hours put in to make this such a great event. They are the reason for the success of the event.

If you would like to participate in our event next year be sure to contact us 815-385-3076. We hope to see everyone again next year at Touch-A-Truck on September 21, 2019.



THANK YOU!

Advanced Tree Care
Altorfer CAT
Bedrock Stabilization
Blu Petroleum
Chain O Lakes Eagles RC Flying Club
CIT Trucks
Clarke Mosquito
ComEd
D & L Midwest
Dn N Drty Towing
First Student Bus
Groot Waste Management
Interstate Battery
JA Frate Transportation
Johnsburg Community School District 12
McHenry Concert Bugle Corps
McHenry County Conservation Dist. Police
McHenry County Historical Society
McHenry Lion's Club
McHenry Township Fire Protection District
Nicor Gas
Nunda Township Road District
Ozinga Ready Mix
Rex Towing
RNOW
U-Haul
Village of Johnsburg Public Works
Walter's Farm
West Side Tractor

The Road District Added Two New Employees with Excellent Experience

Since the last newsletter we have added two new employees to our staff and I believe you will be very impressed with the experience each has in the many tasks we complete.

Mike Mattio

Mike previously worked for the Road District from 1997 to 2005 and thus is very experienced in the many tasks we perform. In addition to that, he is a licensed arborist with extensive experience in tree trimming near overhead utility lines. Also, due to his previous time at the Road District, he has experience with one of our most important tasks, snow plowing and will not require any extensive training as a result. Most importantly, he shows up with a positive, ready to go attitude every day, which makes him a joy to work with.



Bob Michels

Bob is one of those people who can address every situation with a calm, can do attitude. His mild manner is perfect for tackling many of the challenges we encounter at the Road District in a positive way. Then, add in his experience as a mechanic, experience in the landscape and snow maintenance industry and lastly experience in the underground cabling industry and I think you will agree he is an excellent addition to our staff. All this gives us the flexibility to utilize Bob in almost any situation and we are happy to have him as part of our team.



Questions from our Electorate

It is time again for another session of questions from our electorate:

Why hasn't the backside of the roadside ditches been mowed in some areas this fall? – Here at the township we are trying a new method in the fight against nuisance snow drifting in open areas throughout the Road District. By leaving the grass long in these areas we are seeing if it will provide a natural snow buffer over the winter to help

reduce drifting and thus reduce our winter maintenance costs. These areas will continue to be mowed during our spring and summer mowing efforts.

Is it true that the Road District is working to change some of the vegetation along its roadways from the standard grass vegetation to a natural vegetation? –

Yes, we have started a program to transform some of our ditch areas to natural vegetation such as natural prairie grasses and flowers. The purpose for this is three fold, first to reduce costs through less mowing, second to provide habitat for species such as monarchs and bees and lastly to reduce and improve stormwater runoff through increased retention and cleansing of the stormwater runoff by these plants.

Speaking of drifting, why doesn't the Road District salt drifting areas while they are out plowing and pushing back drifts? –

Yes, there is a good reason for this and it is based on the fact that drifting snow will not stick to dry pavement. However, if we put salt down we will be creating wet pavement which the drifting snow will stick to and ultimately cause icing conditions. Therefore, don't be surprised if you see us our plowing in drifting areas and not salting.

If the Road District is eliminated, will I get better services on my Non-Dedicated Roadway? –

I am not sure there is a definitive answer regarding this question. What I can say is that we are working diligently to find a solution to this issue. I believe within the next month we will be proposing a three option plan for the long term maintenance of Non-Dedicated Roads. My hope is to have Non-Dedicated roads improved to a point that all pavement is good within the next two to three years. If the Road District were to be eliminated I would assume there is no guarantee of a program continuing.

Is it true that the Highway Commissioner can do whatever he wants and the Township Trustees have no say in the budgeting of the Road District? –

Recently there has been a great deal of misleading, false and negative information said about the Township Road District and Highway Commissioner. I would encourage all township residents to feel free to contact me with any questions regarding the Road District, especially as it relates to negative inaccurate information like the question above so that we can clarify things for you. Moreover, the answer to the above question is no. The trustees review the budget, have complete control to change line item amounts and ultimately approve the budget. In addition, they audit on a monthly basis all bills of the Road District.

Indian Ridge Reconstruction Project Update

As most residents in the Indian Ridge Subdivision area near Wonder Lake have notice, we are in the final phase of the reconstruction of over six miles of previously non-dedicated road. Although there have been a few minor issues requiring additional attention, most residents are ecstatic with the new roadway and looking forward to the long term maintenance of the roadway by the Road District. Many thanks to all the residents impacted by the construction and to the significant funding provided by McHenry County Government.

McHenry Township Non-Dedicated Roads

As many of you are aware, McHenry Township contains over six miles of roadway that is not in under the jurisdiction of the McHenry Township Road District, not in The McHenry County Non-dedicated Subdivision Road System and not within the limits of a municipality. These roads are maintained by various homeowner associations and/or adjacent property owners. The result in most cases is that these organizations struggle to keep the roads in passable condition. In an effort to address this, the Road District is currently developing a plan to work with the associations to provide a method to get them out of the road maintenance business. The goal of this plan is that all non-dedicated roads become either part of the Road District or maintained with assistance of the Road District within the next two years. However, no associations will be forced into this program if they wish to stay independent of the Township. Please watch for details in the near future.

The staff at McHenry Township Road District wishes you have a great Fall season and festive Holidays:

**Happy Thanksgiving,
Merry Christmas
and the happiest of New Years!**



PRE-TREATING / DE-ICING ROADS

McHenry Township Road District will pre-treat the roads, when applicable, with a de-icing liquid salt brine. This product is used to prevent snow and ice from freezing to the pavement and applied to the road surface before a storm arrives. If a snowfall is predicted our truck may be out pre-treating the road before the snowfall. If you see the application truck out, please take necessary precautions and stay well behind the truck.

WHEN THE SNOW FALLS

When clearing snow from your driveway, pile it along the right side as you face the road out front. This will eliminate the amount of snow deposited on the cleared surface when the plow comes down the road. Do not push or blow snow onto the road. This can cause a very dangerous situation.

Also, it is a good idea to remove or move back any rocks, posts, or other border decorations away from the edge of the road. This will prevent them from being hit by a plow and damaged or doing damage to the plow. If there is a fire hydrant in front of your house it is a good idea to clear out around the hydrant. This will be extremely helpful to the firefighters in an emergency.



SNOW PLOWING PRIORITIES

Since all streets cannot be cleared at the same time after a snowfall, there is a priority schedule which generally applies to all township maintained roads. Major roads and intersections are cleared first, then primary collector streets, followed by feeder streets, cul-de-sacs and dead ends.

Priority is given to all principal township maintained roads so they will be clear in time for morning and evening rush hours. Principal roads are Barnard Mill, Fox Lake, Howe, Lily Lake, Lincoln, McCullom Lake, Ringwood, Wilmot/Johnsburg, Wonder Lake Road and Riverside Drive.



In years past, all municipalities and townships that plow the roads have had a problem with vehicles parked on the roads during and after a snowfall, before cleanup could be completed.

This prompted the McHenry County Highway Commissioners Association to standardize all of the township's parking ordinances, thus making it easier for the Sheriff's Department to enforce. Ordinance #120608-1 states in part:

PARKING LIMITATIONS

Parking of any motor vehicle in excess of 72 hours, or at such times when there is snowfall of 2 inches or more, until such snow is cleared from the roadway, or of any camping trailer or boat and/or boat trailer or other trailer, or motor vehicle in excess of gross weight of 8,000 pounds for more than 24 hours is prohibited on any McHenry Township road, street or highway. The official



definition of road, street or highway, as contained in 605 ILCS, shall apply hereto, McHenry Township roads, streets, or highway, hereinafter known as "roads".

PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Parking is prohibited on any Township Road when posted by signage indicating the period of time or times when parking is restricted and/or prohibited.

ENFORCEMENT

Upon posting of any signs as set forth in Section II above, a copy of this Ordinance, duly certified, has been transmitted to the Sheriff of McHenry County and the State's Attorney of McHenry County for enforcement of the terms hereof, pursuant to Sections 11-304 and 11-306 of the Motor Vehicle Code of Illinois, as amended, and Sections of 6-201.16, 16.102 and 16.105 of the Highway Code of Illinois, as amended.

If you normally park along the road, it is a good idea to make other arrangements during the snow season, or at least when snow is predicted. By doing so, you may avoid being ticketed and towed. Your cooperation will make it possible to clear the entire roadway, benefiting you and your neighbors. Thank you for your cooperation.

McHenry Township
3703 N. Richmond Road
Johnsburg, IL 60051

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

ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

McHenry Township & McHenry Township Fire Protection District



COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday, January 26, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N. Richmond Road

January is National Blood Donor Month! Above all other times of the year, January presents the most challenges in recruiting people to give blood thus donations to the blood banks come up short every year.

Join us in being a January hero by giving the gift of life!

Despite the miraculous advancements in medicine, there is no substitute for human blood. The need for blood products occur in persons of all ages, from premature infants to the elderly. Blood products collected by LifeSource become an important component of many medical and surgical treatments. A stable blood supply is vital to ensure excellence in the delivery of healthcare in our region.

Blood is not manufactured in a factory; we, as human beings, are the only ones who can provide it. There is no substitute for human blood.



One donation can save up to three lives!

The Blood Drive donation process begins with registration; a health history is taken and a mini-physical is given. The actual donation takes about 10 minutes and equals approximately one pint of blood. Your body will normally replace the lost fluid within 24 hours.

A photo ID is required at donation time. Donors are encouraged to eat a meal prior to giving blood and drink plenty of water. Blood donation requirements include a minimum weight of 110 pounds and minimum age of 16. There is no upper age limit for donating blood. For qualifications to donate blood, go to <http://www.lifesource.org/donate-blood/eligibility/>

APPOINTMENTS ARE RECOMMENDED — To schedule your appointment please contact: LifeSource at 877-543-3768 or at <https://donateblood.lifesource.org/> and use group code 241G

Walk-ins are always welcome!