

McHenry Township

www.mchenrytownship.com

815-385-5605

Summer/Fall 2017 Newsletter

3703 North Richmond Road, Johnsburg, Illinois 60051

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE

McHenry Township expresses gratitude to Marsha Nelson, Neal Schepler, Amy Mercurio, Gary Barla and Craig Wallace for their dedicated public service. Congratulations on a job well done.



L to R top row: Marsha Nelson & Amy Mercurio
L to R seated: Gary Barla, Craig Wallace & Neal Schepler

As McHenry Township Trustees, your dedication to giving our neighborhood a practical political voice has been invaluable. Your vision, fairness, and understanding—have been crucial qualities for an effective government; proving that this is the kind of civic involvement in which everyone is a winner.

As spokespersons for your neighbors, you have kept a watchful eye on community interests while preparing the township's budget. You analyzed the ways and means to reduce expenses which lowered the levy for the township's real estate taxpayers; thus making McHenry Township a leader in property tax reduction in McHenry County.

As the financial caretakers of the township, you have:

- ◆ ensured the availability of emergency assistance for our poor and needy residents,
- ◆ made frugal decisions about allocating resources while auditing monthly township bills,
- ◆ ensured the maintenance of township parks and facilities plus the quality of township services and programs,
- ◆ and you have collaborated with local organizations to reduce township expenditures such as working with McHenry Township Fire Protection District to install three new emergency warning sirens.

Marsha Nelson served as trustee for 9 years and then as Township Clerk for 3 years. In her capacity as Clerk, she provided notices of meetings and agendas plus the keeper of all township records including the minutes of all meetings. She also served as the ex-officio clerk of the Road District and maintained all records for the highway commissioner.

She was responsible for placing township notices such as advertisement of bids in local newspapers and public places within the township which includes notices for the McHenry Township Road District. She was present at all bid openings for both the township and the road district. Marsha managed all the duties as the local election authority and was responsible for accepting petitions concerning local elections and/or referendums.

To you all: thank you for your consistent faithfulness to your commissions. As a team, you have contributed dedicated and outstanding service to McHenry Township. We want you to know that your contributions have made the township a better community for its residents.



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

A Message from the Supervisor:

McHenry Township is updating its communication with its citizenry. To make the township even more transparent, we will be streaming our Board of Trustee meetings to our residents through a link to YouTube.

This is a perfect solution for our many constituents who would like to attend meetings but find it difficult because of their hectic everyday schedules. Also this is beneficial for seniors who want to attend but are unable to drive at night and there is no evening bus service. The same is true with homebound residents who cannot get out.

The meetings are now available to attend via the internet.

By going to our "Home" page at www.mchenrytownship.com you will find a "Live Stream" button which by clicking on the button you will be linked to the site and able to view the meeting via YouTube. You will see and hear the board meeting proceedings and watch your government at work.

Board meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. I hope that you tune in to discover Board of Trustee meeting procedure. Take this opportunity to attend and observe a live meeting through your internet connection in the comfort of your home.

McHenry Township hopes to see you at these celebrations!

WONDER LAKE INDEPENDENCE DAY

Saturday, July 1, 2017—day-long festivities

All events are free! Go to www.wonderlake.org/
Wonder Lake Chamber ~ 815-728-0682

The Parade begins at 1:30 p.m.; starting at Christ the King Church; south on East Wonder Lake Road to Hancock Drive and west to Wonder Lake.

Enjoy kid's games, vendor booths and more from noon to 4:30 p.m.! The Champion Wonder Lake Water Ski Team performs at Center Beach (Hancock Drive & East Lake Shore Drive) at 4:30 p.m. The fireworks begin at 9 p.m.

MCHENRY AREA

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2017 FIESTA DAYS — July 13 thru 23

A 10-DAY COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!

for Events/Concessions/Tickets/Applications
go to <http://mchenryfiestadays.com/>

McHenry Township hopes to see you along the parade route on Sunday, July 23 at 1:30 p.m.—Parade route: Main Street to Green Street to Pearl Street to Riverside Drive to Washington Street and ending at Veteran's Memorial Park in McHenry.

JOHNSBURG SAUFEN UND SPIEL

Our local German Festival

www.johnsburgcommunityclub.com/saufen-und-spiel

Friday, September 8 at 5:00 p.m.—Registration at 5 p.m.: Johnsborg Community Men's Club Annual Black Light Bean Bag Tournament (double elimination). \$10 per player! Contact Butch at butchchambers@comcast.net for information & registration. Live music at 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 9 at 5 p.m.—The Johnsborg Lions Club's Annual Banjo Beer Night: an evening of live high energy music; burgers, brats, hot dogs & fresh sweet "corn on the cob" roasting on the grill; and raffles! Great fun fest!

Sunday, September 10 at 12:30 p.m.—Annual Saufen und Spiel Parade begins at Johnsborg Village Hall parking lot then left on Johnsborg Rd.; Johnsborg Rd to Spring Grove Rd.; then turn right onto Church Street to the Community Club. (Route subject to change due to construction on Church St.) McHenry Township hopes to see you at the parade; we are joining in the Johnsborg Germanic weekend celebration.

After the parade, it's *Germanfest 2017*: dancing to live music, food, games and good old fashion fun plus a German Polka band. The finale of the day's festivities is the ever popular 'Cow Drop Raffle'! Music, Raffles, Games & more!

MC HENRY TOWNSHIP WELCOMES NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS!

2017 brings new faces to begin their new roles in township government. Serving on the township board is a part-time job with full-time responsibilities. Our newly elected members will be making important decisions to help build a stronger community. We are pleased to have them as part of our organization.

McHenry Township prides itself with excellent schools, great roads, safe neighborhoods and caring people. It is important to have accurate information to help the community thrive. The Township provides many services and programs to enhance the lives of its residents thus we provide communication about our services through our website, newsletters and Facebook pages.

The township Board of Trustees is the legislative branch of township government. All township government boards are comprised of four trustees and the Township Supervisor is the Chairman of the Township Board of Trustees. The Township Clerk is a non-voting member and is responsible for all township records.

The responsibility of a Trustee includes: monthly auditing of bills, budget preparation, adoption of the Road District and Township budget, approval of ordinances and contracts, in addition to policy making for the Township. Each board member is elected at-large within the township and has one vote on all issues before the township board. Read more about your trustees on our website at <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/board-of-trustees.html>



Left to right: Clerk Dan Alyward; Trustees: Mike Rakestraw, Stan Wojewski, Bob Anderson, and Bill Cunningham.

The Township Clerk is required to keep accurate records of all township board meetings and maintain records of the board's executive sessions. During the town board meetings the clerk records roll call votes and is responsible for documenting the minutes of all township board meetings and maintaining records of the board's executive sessions. Minutes of all McHenry Township Board meetings are posted on our website <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/agendas—minutes.html>. The Clerk also is the local election authority and must also be present at all bid openings.

McHenry Township conducts regular board meetings on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the McHenry Township Hall. As we all have busy lifestyles, most residents find it inconvenient to attend meetings. The general public will now be able to attend meetings without having to leave the comfort of their home. The Township is now going to be streaming the entire meeting onto YouTube so that all residents have the opportunity to watch the proceedings on their computers or mobile devices.

The televised meetings will be very easy for residents to turn on the meeting and watch the proceedings. There will be a link to the YouTube page on the township's website. Just click on the link and watch your government at work.

Your Board of Trustees wants to hear from you and wants to know what issues are important to you. Meet the Trustees on our website by pressing the "Board" link located on our the website's "Home" page. Each Trustee's name has a link to their e-mail address.

Take the opportunity to e-mail your Trustees and express your concerns about the township! Let your new Trustees know what issues are important to you.

MCHENRY TOWNSHIP IS NOW ACCEPTING SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS!

Help enable a child go back to school!



McHenry Township is an Extension Site for Salvation Army Emergency Assistance and also for the Salvation Army Back To School Program. The program is available for low income residents residing on zip codes 60050, 60051, 60072, and 60097.

Salvation Army Back to School Program providing school supplies for children—kindergarten thru high school.

[The township will post a notice with information and dates on our website at \[www.mchenrytownship.com\]\(http://www.mchenrytownship.com\) as to when applications will be available.](#)

To qualify you must have the following documents:

1. Verification of residency

(driver's license, State ID, current utility bill, lease)

2. Proof of income

(current pay stub, SSI or SSDI, Child support, etc.)

3. Identification for each child

(SSA cards, birth certificate or school registration)

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

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

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.

McHenry County Housing Authority (MCHA), 1108 N. Seminary Ave. in Woodstock will start taking applications for their Winter 2017-18 energy assistance programs as soon as LIHEAP program information is available. MCHA is waiting for information about the LIHEAP program from the State of Illinois.

As soon as the program information and eligibility requirements are available it will be posted on their website at www.mchenrycountyhousing.org and we also will post it on McHenry Township's website.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH & SAFETY FAIR

Wednesday, July 26 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

McHenry County College, 8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake

FREE ADMISSION!

McHenry County Children's Health & Safety Fair provides families with fun interactive activities and more importantly essential immunizations and physicals before the start of the new school year. Visit the many exhibitors with hands-on health and safety related booths. Door prizes and entertainment! Need more information: call MCDH at 815-334-4510. Visit them on Facebook!



Schedule your child's appointment now for school physicals (for qualifying children) at the Family Health Partnership Clinic 779-220-9300. By appointment only.

Reduced price immunizations and dental exams are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Medicaid is accepted. Parents must bring their child's updated shot record. Call MCDH at 815-334-4500 for information and/or to schedule an appointment.

AFFORDABLE BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTHCARE

at McHenry Community Family Care Center

located in McHenry at 3901 Mercy Drive.

- All Kids/Family Care Application Site
- School and Sports Physicals & Well-Child Exams
- Immunizations and Medications
- Pediatrics and Family Case Management
- Same or next day appointments

They have a comparable medical fee schedule, however, they offer a sliding fee discount to those who qualify and affordable healthcare for all—including those without the ability to pay. Proof of income is required and must be updated annually. The facility accepts Medicare, Medicaid and All Kids.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 815-363-9900. In addition, the facility offers a wide-range of healthcare for the entire family. Go to <http://gefcc.org/locations/mchenry-community-health-center/>

Blue Star Banner Program honors township's military families!

If you are a McHenry Township resident and a member of your family is serving in the armed forces...this program is in honor of your family. At the April 13th McHenry Township Trustees Board Meeting, in recognition of the commitment and sacrifices military families make every day, three families were honored with a Blue Star Banner.



Susan & Michael Savitzky
grandparents of
Private Misty R. Savitzky

The Blue Star Flag was created in 1917, hanging in homes to denote family members serving our Armed Forces; each star represents a family member proudly serving our country. The idea spread to include businesses and churches, a star for each employee or member who had gone to war.

The program also was implemented during World Wars I and II, honoring once again those serving our country. A Blue Star Flag hung in the windows of homes gained widespread use during World War II, when nearly every U.S. home or organization displayed the banner to honor those who served. Each blue star on the flag indicates a family member in military service.

If one or more members of your family are in military duty, you may apply for a banner through the Blue Star Banner Program. Your banner displayed in the window of your home indicates to the community your pride in your family member's service to our country. The township-wide Blue Star Banner program carries on the tradition of showing support for the men and women serving our country.

The presentations are made at special board meetings by McHenry Township and Beta Omicron Master a McHenry sorority which contributes the banners and partners with the township.

For more information or to download an application, go to: <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/blue-star-banner.html>

E-mail the completed form to: supervisor@mchenrytownship.com

or fax it to: 815-385-5671. You can also mail it to:
McHenry Township Blue Star Banner Program
3703 N. Richmond Road, Johnsburg, IL 60051



Joseph (& Carol; not present) Priedel
parents of
Christopher Priedel; U.S. Navy



Karen Dockery mother of
Ryan Dockery (center of photo);
U.S. Air Force National Guard

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE MOBILE DRIVERS SERVICES UNIT and RULES OF THE ROAD COURSE at McHENRY TOWNSHIP HALL

Wednesday, September 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**McHenry Township will host
Secretary of the State Jesse White's "Super Seniors Program"
at McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N. Richmond Road**

This program brings the State of Illinois' driving resources and services directly to our community.

The township is offering these drivers' services as a convenience for our residents of **ALL AGES** ; this event is NOT limited to seniors only. You can renew your driver's license locally at this special event which includes a Rules of the Road Review Course and a Secretary of State Mobile Drivers Services Unit.

The Rules of the Road Course will be from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The class is designed to give drivers of **all ages**, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities, the knowledge and confidence needed to renew or obtain a driver's license.

The review course updates drivers on the current rules of the road. It prepares participants for the general written and road sign exams. (Road Tests must be taken at an Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) facility.)



The Secretary of State Mobile Unit will be open between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The Unit is setup to provide area residents an opportunity to obtain or renew Illinois driver's licenses or Illinois identification cards. Vision-screening exams are provided, however you must visit a DMV facility for a written or road test. You can also obtain license plate stickers (past, present and upcoming month only). Photos are taken and driver license and State ID cards are issued.

Services offered by Secretary of State's Mobile Driver Unit:

- ◆ RENEWAL /CORRECTIONS OF DRIVERS LICENSE
- ◆ NEW/RENEWAL/CORRECTION OF STATE ID
- ◆ LICENSE PLATE STICKERS
- ◆ MOTOR VOTER REGISTRATION with RENEWAL of DL or ID
- ◆ ORGAN DONOR REGISTRATION with RENEWAL of DL or ID
- ◆ SENIORS AGE 65 AND UP (NO CHARGE FOR STATE ID)
- ◆ SENIORS AGE 75 AND UP- NEED TO VISIT DMV TO RENEW THEIR DRIVERS LICENCE

PROPER IDENTIFICATION WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE SERVICES.

For information about acceptable forms of identification, contact Jessie White Secretary of State office: call 217-782-7044 or visit the , on line at <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/>



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

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

The Life of Van Johnson Friday, July 21 at 10:00 a.m.

Our own *Carol Bradley* is back at Senior Services with another wonderful biographical presentation in her fun and unique style! Van Johnson was a big star at MGM in the 30's & 40's; most of his films were musicals & War pictures. He was involved in a horrible car accident and the scars and metal plate in his head gave him a medical deferment from the military. Married once; which was an arrangement. No fee. Registration deadline is Wednesday, July 19.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Thanks to the McHenry Fire Protection District, paramedics conduct blood pressure checks at Senior Services on the first Wednesday every month at 10:30 a.m. No reservations necessary and first come, first served!

RULES OF THE ROAD REVIEW COURSE Wednesday, September 7 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 1 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at McHenry Township Hall, 3703 N. Richmond Road

The Rules of the Road Review Course is designed to give all drivers the knowledge and confidence needed to renew or obtain a driver's license. The course is offered by the Illinois Secretary of State Office to 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.

There is no charge and reservations are required call the Township's Front Desk at 815-385-5605.

All American Hot Dog Party Thursday, July 27 at 11:30 a.m.

Join the staff of Senior Services for this 'All American' celebration at the Senior Center, 3519 N. Richmond Road. The grills will be fired up to serve you charcoal broiled hot dogs, and a complete picnic style luncheon.

Wear your favorite baseball teams t-shirt and join us in a sing-a-long with Jim Sieg - don't miss this show! We extend a big thank you to the McHenry Township and Heritage Woods of McHenry for sponsoring this event. Reservation deadline is Monday, July 24. Cost: \$8.



The Dancing Horses Theatre Thursday, July 20 A Day Trip to Delavan, WI

This dazzling spectacle features an array of horse breeds that perform alongside their trainers in this fantastic



cavalcade of equestrian artistry. The bus departs from the Senior Center parking lot promptly at 10:30 a.m. Bus arrives back at Senior Services approximately 5:00/5:30 p.m. Trip cost is \$70 for members and \$75 for non-members which includes show tickets and transportation. For detailed information call Jane at 815-344-3555.

Christmas in July BINGO Wednesday, July 26 at 12:30 a.m.

Come on out of the heat and wear your red and green for a special Bingo day! Thanks to The Springs of Crystal Lake for providing door prizes and dessert. Registration deadline is Monday, July 24. Cost: \$2.

HOE DOWN PARTY

Thursday, August 17 at 11:30 a.m.
McHenry Township Hall, 3703 Richmond Road

Come kick up your heels at the Annual Hoe Down!!! Be sure to don your western wear and cool off from the heat of the summer with a delicious down home luncheon.



Returning favorite, Ramblin' Rich will get us up dancing with a wide variety of uplifting tunes and line-dancing! If dancing is not your 'thing, just sit back and enjoy the music...y'all come! Thank you to our sponsor Heritage Woods of McHenry. Reservation deadline is Friday, August 11. Cost is \$8.



Golden Diners Deli at the Senior Center & Home Delivered Meals

Salvation Army Nutrition Program

Have a nutritious lunch & socialize with other seniors!

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

The Home Delivered Meal Program provides homebound 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, apply by calling Senior Services Associates: 815-344-3555.

COMPUTER CLASSES

Computer classes are offered each month. Registration is required and class size is limited.

From 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 or Debbie at 815-344-3555 if you need information about current classes scheduled or to register.

SENIOR CENTER MOVIE MATINEE

On select Fridays each month. Show time is 12:00 p.m. Wall sized picture and 'easy to hear' surround sound system! Complimentary popcorn is available to all who attend. **No admission charge!**

COMING ATTRACTIONS

- Friday, July 7: *Hachi: A Dogs Tail* (2009)
- Friday, July 21: *A Night At The Museum* (2006)
- Friday, August 4: *A Night At The Museum- A Battle At The Smithsonian* (2009)
- Friday, August 18: *A Beautiful Mind* (2002)
- Friday, September 1: *Sully* (2016)
- Friday, September 15: *Rain Man* (1988)
- Friday, October 6: *No Movie (Octoberfest Party)*
- Friday, October 20: *Florence Foster Jenkins* (2016)

'So Long, Summer' ICE CREAM SOCIAL Friday, September 22; at 1:00 p.m.

Ice cream & a great story... what better way to end the summer season than with good friends and the opportunity to meet new friends at a 'Farewell to Summer' meet & mingle party!

Enjoy an afternoon of Ice Cream Sundaes with a 'Smokey the War Dog' presentation.

A special thanks to Paradise Park for sponsoring this event. Event cost is \$2. Registration deadline is Tuesday, September 19.





SENIOR & DISABLED TRANSPORTATION

McHenry Township's Transportation Program is more than a paratransit bus service to area seniors and disabled adults who no longer are able to drive—it is a lifeline to doctors, groceries and friends. It allows them to remain independent.

McHenry Township's bus service provides door-to-door service which assists seniors but is a necessity for adults with disabilities. It allows them 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.

McHenry Township Transit services only township residents living in the 60050, 60051, 60097 and 60072 zip code areas. It operates within McHenry Township plus we additionally take passengers to Centegra Medical Centers, Pioneer Center and McHenry Community Health Center.

**Township buses operate
Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Riders are asked for a \$1 donation for each one-way trip. As always, riders unable to pay will be provided service.

**New riders must register for service
with the Township by calling 815-385-5605.**

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

**Pace's Dispatch Center
Monday through Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
800-451-4599 (TTY) 888-454-4724**

For your inter-township trips, when speaking with the dispatcher, be sure to specify that you want to schedule your ride with McHenry Township Express bus.

For detailed information about McHenry Township Transit and other regional transportation options visit our website <http://www.mchenrytownship.com/transportation.html>

**LUCKY BUCKS CASH RAFFLE & LUNCHEON
Thursday, September 7 at 11:30 a.m.
McHenry Township Hall, 3703 Richmond Rd**

Join Senior Services for their Annual Cash Raffle Fundraiser – Broadway Style!

A top cash prize of \$700.00 will be given to the top winner and three \$100.00 cash prizes for three more lucky people for a total of \$1,000.00 to be given away. Raffle chances are \$2.00 apiece or five for \$5.00.

Following a delicious luncheon you will enjoy a truly unique performance of Broadway/Hollywood songs by singer/songwriter Gary of The 45's, who will treat us to his fantastic vocals singing those great songs that last from the past. Have fun and dress up in your Broadway attire! Don't miss it! Reservation deadline is Friday, September 1. Cost: \$10.00



FREE LEGAL SERVICES

2nd & 3rd Mondays every month from 10 a.m. to noon

Services are offered by attorney, Jenette Schwemler. She will be available at the Senior Center to answer any of your legality related questions estate planning, Medicaid benefits, veteran benefits, divorce, wills, or other general legal inquires. Semi-private consultations are available and there is a refundable \$5 deposit required for this service. Call Jane at 815-344-3555 to make your appointment.

**On Facebook, go to
McHenry Township Senior Center, Illinois
and click "Like"**





FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT 11:30 a.m.

AT MCHENRY TOWNSHIP HALL

3703 N. Richmond Road in Johnsburg

Celebrate autumn with some OOM-PA-PA!!! If you are unable to get to Germany this year, McHenry Township invites you to its annual senior citizen Oktoberfest which begins with a savory catered Bavarian-style luncheon.

Then the festivities begin with the energizing sounds of **Die Musikmeisters German Band** dressed in authentic German lederhosen. They will play their extensive musical repertoire which includes a variety of traditional German vocal and instrumental favorites. You will be treated to a unique Alpine mountain bell ringing performance second to none!

Be prepared to sing-a-long, dance and clap your hands to the exciting sounds of Bavarian polkas, waltzes and German folk music. Celebrate the fall equinox and the plentiful harvest! Everyone is invited to join in the merriment of Munich right here in Johnsburg!

Tickets are \$15 which includes luncheon, drinks and toe-tapping entertainment. Reservations are required; seating is limited. Call Jane at 815-344-3555. Reservation deadline: Friday, September 29.



Spooktacular

MASQUERADE BINGO PARTY

Wednesday, October 25 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. Cost: \$2. Reservation deadline is Monday, October 23.

**For information or
TO REGISTER FOR ACTIVITIES
on the 'Senior Center'
pages 7 through 10
contact Activities Director
Jane Gregory
call 815-344-3555**



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

PLEASE **READ YOUR ASSESSMENT NOTICE!**

When you receive your 2017 assessment notice, please take the time to look it over. It will tell you the market value we have placed on your property and the exemptions you will be receiving. You should start looking for it to arrive in your mailbox at the end of July. If you have any questions about the notice, just call our office or come in and we will gladly answer your questions. Remember, this is the time to determine if the assessment is correct and if you are getting all the exemptions you are entitled to... not when you get the tax bill!

A SAD STORY TO SHARE...

Jane and John Doe read the township newsletter every time it came out. They were happy to hear about an additional exemption they could receive as soon as one of them turned 65. After Jane's birthday, they happily came into the assessment office to apply for this exemption as they were anxious to help reduce their taxes. When they sat down with a staff member, they were told that they were not currently receiving **any** exemptions. "But we have lived in this house for 20 years!" said Jane. "Doesn't it go on automatically?" Sadly, no, it does not.

**Don't forget to renew
your exemptions?**



may have to remove any existing exemptions until we have definitive verification.

Please don't assume you are receiving the benefit of the homeowner exemption. It is sad when we discover that an exemption has been excluded for a long time. Unfortunately, there is no way to refund the money that was previously paid.

The moral of the story is......if you have any doubt or concern that you are not receiving the exemptions you are entitled to....CALL US! PLEASE!!

ASSESSMENT REVIEW **EXTENDED HOURS**

We will be glad to assist you in filing an appeal during the 30 day appeal time. We are available on a first come, first served basis during regular business hours:

Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
(except for any legal holidays that may fall in the time frame).

We will again offer residents specific extended hours by appointment to accommodate those of you who cannot come in during our daytime office hours.

Once we determine the specific dates for the extended hours during the appeal time, the days and hours will be posted on the Home page of the township website at www.mchenrytownship.com and in the Northwest Herald.

You can also call the office for the dates & times.

**The extended office hours
will require an appointment.**

To ensure that everyone is given an opportunity to get help with the appeal process, additional dates may be added if necessary.

LOTS OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY!!!

Look what's been happening around town! We have some new businesses, (some already open, some to open in the near future) and some current businesses that have changed locations.

New...

- ◆ Addison's Steakhouse, 325 Front St
- ◆ Opaque Vape, 319 Front St
- ◆ Auto Villa, 3017 Elm St
- ◆ Mix N Mingle, 1118 N. Green St
- ◆ Uprooted, 2816 Rte 120
- ◆ Three Queens, 810 Front St
- ◆ Reveal Skin Care, 1213 Riverside
- ◆ Dominos Pizza, 2208 N. Richmond Rd
- ◆ Lucky Lady, McCullom Lake Rd
- ◆ Big Fran's , 2420 Johnsburg Rd
- ◆ Big Fran's, 3401 Elm St
- ◆ Visionworks, 2210 Richmond Rd
- ◆ Gigi's Playhouse, 5404 Elm St
- ◆ Kiddie Korner, 3716 Elm St
- ◆ Lacey's Place, 3515 Diamond Dr
- ◆ Mariner Finance, 3428 Shoppers Dr

Coming Soon!

- ◆ McHenry Indoor Theater
- ◆ D.C. Cobbs Restaurant
- ◆ White Oaks Memory Care Facility

Moved...

- ◆ Hidden Pearl (moved to renovated Some other Nuts Bldg), 1260 N. Green St.
- ◆ Starbucks (moved to old Oberweis location), 2318 N. Richmond Rd.

APPEALS AREN'T SCARY

If you believe the value of your property is incorrect, please don't be afraid to inquire how the value was determined and if the information we have on record is correct. You can always call or stop in the office as we will gladly answer any questions you may have to help you determine if you should file an appeal. We will assist you in locating sales or equity information and filling out the necessary 2017 appeal paperwork.

Yes, it will take some of your time, but if a correction needs to be made, the time to do it is when you receive your assessment notice.

FIGHTING FOR YOU!

Thinking about buying a property? If you have been paying attention to our local real estate market over the last year or so you know that sale prices are increasing. Of course there are always exceptions. Certain neighborhoods may not rebound as well as others, but overall, values are definitely going up. Now while that is mostly a positive thing, I want to caution any prospective buyer that while assessments usually lag behind the actual sale price, they will eventually catch up.

What that means to you is that the tax amount you are being **quoted now may not reflect** any assessment increase that may have been made or removal of any exemptions that were previously on the property...and the new tax bill could be much higher. For example, you buy a home for \$120,000 with taxes of \$2,750. When you get the new tax bill, you find taxes are now \$3,666. You call my office, and find out that the previous assessment (and tax bill) was based on a market value of \$75,000. The assessment was changed to bring it to a market value of \$100,000 and the new taxes are based on that.

Besides always checking the assessment information on a property, you also want to be aware of when assessment notices will be sent out. If you buy a property in the last half of the year, there is a good chance that the assessment notice will go to the previous owner. If there is any reason to appeal the new assessment, you will need to know the filing deadline. A call to the assessment office will make sure you get this information.

I believe that all new property owners should be told of the possibility of the above scenarios occurring and I will continue to work to help taxpayers be as informed as possible. Hopefully, taking these steps will help eliminate surprises and make the transition to your new home the pleasant experience it should be.

Mary Mahady

McHenry Township Road District



**Road Commissioner
James E. Condon, P. E.**
Monday thru Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
815-385-3076
fax 815-385-5874



roaddistrict@mchenrytownship.com

More Questions from Our Electorate

As in past newsletters I would like to take a little time to address some of the concerns expressed by our constituency both by direct contact and through various forms of the media:

Why do we belong to the organization Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) when all they do is lobby for the preservation of townships – *I wanted to again provide real information regarding TOI in order to remind the electorate why we belong to TOI.*

The Road District, like many municipal organizations belongs to such associations because they provide the cost effective services listed below:

1. TOI provides educational programs to all interested townships to assist all elected officials in performing their job within the mandated statutory responsibilities.
2. TOI provides, free of charge, a phone number for elected officials to call and ask for information on any law, regulation or recommended practices being imposed on or used by a township. Although the opinions and statements of TOI are not to be considered as legal advice, they can assist in understanding what the intent of the requirement is.
3. TOI also sponsors a risk management program, TOIRMA (Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association) that was established in 1986 to provide Illinois townships with a source of protection against costly liability claims. The program is available only to townships that are members of TOI.
4. Monthly publication of Township Perspective, the official source of information about township government in Illinois.
5. TOI works through its legislative committee and contracted lobbyist to provide effective oversight on all

legislative matters before the General Assembly that impact township government.

And probably the most important reason for belonging to TOI is that it allows us to utilize TOIRMA which provides our insurance at a rate that cannot be found elsewhere. These services have cost the Road District less than \$400 annually. I would encourage you to visit the TOI website at www.toi.org.

Illinois taxing bodies – It is true Illinois has more taxing bodies than any other state but when you consider the numbers based on overall population Illinois, is nowhere near the top of the list on a per capita basis. The groups that reference these numbers also don't bother to mention that many of the bodies they count include entities such as old dormant drainage districts and dormant SSA associations related to subdivision maintenance work. Make sure you get all the facts when considering these matters.

I have been asked would the elimination of Townships provide any tax savings – I don't know if there is a clear answer to that but I would point out that work done by the township is currently completed by non-union employees and transferring this to the County Division of Transportation or local municipalities, many of which are unionized would result in this work being completed by union employees. Does that result in costs greater than any potential savings? That has not been answered at this time. Will the current level of service be reduced as the County Government tries to reduce its overall budget by 10% and is servicing McHenry Township from a location outside of McHenry Township the most efficient method? Again, this issue needs to be thoroughly addressed prior to making an informed decision.

Please feel free to contact us anytime you have a question or need verification on issues involving the Road District.

FINAL THREE OF OUR ROAD DISTRICT STAFF

Once again, I would like to take a little time and introduce you to the remaining three staff members of our Road District. This month I would like to introduce Dana Heinz, Jim Puoci and Joe Franc. These three employees are the latest additions to our staff and provide even more diversification in our team's experience.



Dana Heinz

Dana has worked for the Road District since March of 2014 and was added to the staff to assist in the significant increase in documentation required for distribution of MFT funds to the many Non-Dedicated Roads in McHenry

Township. Additionally, she serves as receptionist for the district and is the pleasant voice you hear when you call our office. On a side note, she was one of four staff members to participate in the annual township employee bowling tournament and successfully brought the championship trophy to the Road District.

Jim Puoci

Jim has worked for the Road District since February of 2015 after operating his own vehicle detail business for several years. Jim is the type of person that when you call after hours needing help because a tree is down, he answers the phone ready spring into action.

He shows up to work ready to jump into whatever job you give him without any hesitation. And thanks to his vehicle detailing experience we are able to maintain our fleet of vehicles new appearance even though most are over 10 year old.

Joe Franc

Joe has worked for the Road District since June of 2016. His previous work experience includes everything from construction staking and surveying to HVAC and building construction. This broad background is a real asset in both the daily road maintenance activities of the District and periodic

maintenance of our various building structures. Joe has been a pleasant addition to the existing staff.



2017 ROAD PROGRAM

This year's road program has been awarded to Peter Baker & Sons. As mentioned previously, our road program this year is smaller than past years and includes Howe Road (a portion of), Annabelle Street and the Parkers Highlands Subdivision Roads along with patching of some areas of Riverside Drive. This work will most likely start sometime in late June to early July.

LINCOLN ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

Unfortunately funding for the Lincoln Road reconstruction has been delayed and Lincoln Road will probably not be reconstructed until 2019.

RINGWOOD ROAD RECONSTRUCTION

On a positive note, funding for Ringwood Road reconstruction has been approved for the 2018 construction season. Thanks to the efforts of all four agencies involved (MTRD, McHenry, Johnsburg and Ringwood) and especially the efforts of the Village of Ringwood, the overall estimated project cost of \$1.9 million will be 80% funded by the Federal Highway Administration and only 20% funded with your local tax dollars.

McHenry Township Road District receives 2016 Government of the Year award from the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County

Thanks to the hard work of the Road District staff related to our recycling efforts, I had the privilege of receiving the 2016 Government of the Year award on behalf of the Road District at the Environmental Defenders annual meeting. The award was based on the recycling efforts resulting in recycling over 24 tons of electronics including TV's, computer monitors and video game consoles.

The 2017 recycling efforts got off to a great start at our April event which resulted in the recycling of over 7 tons of electronics, 358 pounds of batteries, 101 fluorescent lights, 2 drums of vhs/audio tapes & dvds and 6 huge bags of styrofoam. Please take advantage of our future recycling events.



2017 RECYCLING DATES

McHenry Township residents/homeowners only!
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 township employee parking lot
at 3703 N. Richmond Road

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

April 15 May 20 June 17 July 15
August 19 October 21 November 18

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

For additional information call

McHenry Township Road District at 815-385-3076.

Brush and Electronic Scrap Recycling Programs

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 township, that person will be turned away. This program is funded by our residents and is for McHenry Township residents only.

Electronics:

McHenry Township residents can drop off their unwanted electronic equipment at our Recycling Center. We will then palletize the electronic discards for shipment to an end market, where they will be refurbished, demanufactured and/or electronic scrap recycled.

Again this year, the township is planning to partner with the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County for our recycling program.

Donations are suggested for particular items to offset the costs of transportation and proper recycling methods- see list below. All donations will go to The Environmental Defenders of McHenry County. Your donation is tax deductible.

Accepted at no charge:

- ♦ computer hard drives
- ♦ keyboards and mice
- ♦ printers and scanners
- ♦ word processors
- ♦ calculators
- ♦ battery backups
- ♦ VCRs & DVD players
- ♦ ink cartridges
- ♦ telephones
- ♦ VHS/cassette tapes/CDs/DVDs
- ♦ miscellaneous electronics
(most anything that plugs-in or runs on batteries)
- ♦ batteries (household & automotive)
- ♦ eyeglasses (in cooperation with McHenry Lions Club)
- ♦ styrofoam

Specific donation amounts requested for:

- ♦ **Televisions and Monitors:** .50 cents per pound or \$40 maximum per unit
- ♦ **CFL bulbs/Fluorescent tubes:** .50 cents to \$1 each
- ♦ **Household batteries:** .50 cents per pound



Brush:

We accept brush and tree limbs which Road District personnel put through the wood chipper to make wood chip mulch. Branches and twigs must be no larger than eight inches in diameter and ten feet in length. Last year, we produced approximately 90-100 tons of wood chips.

The Road District dumps truckloads of wood chips in a chip pile located in the southeast corner of the Township Park Athletic Field parking lot just south of the FISH Food Pantry building at 3515 N. Richmond Road (behind the Moose Lodge). Wood chips are available at no cost to Township residents please help yourself!



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 E. Condon

TOWN CLERK
Dan Alyward

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
Bob Anderson
Bill Cunningham
Mike Rakestraw
Stan Wojewski

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

ECRWSS RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



McHenry Township Road District's
TOUCH-A-TRUCK
Saturday, September 16
from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
No admission charge!

This year will be our 12th Anniversary and McHenry Township Road District is very proud to host this exciting event for our residents. Touch-A-Truck puts kids in the driver's seat! Mark your calendar and don't forget your camera!

Get into gear— for a unique experience, where kids, young and old, can touch, honk, and climb aboard the many specialized vehicles and public safety equipment on display. Come out and explore the trucks, tractors, heavy equipment machinery, emergency vehicles and much more.



Every year we have new participants. This great family event would not be possible without the exhibitors who make this event so special. If you have a truck or piece of motorized equipment and would like to join in the fun this year, call 815-385-3076.

