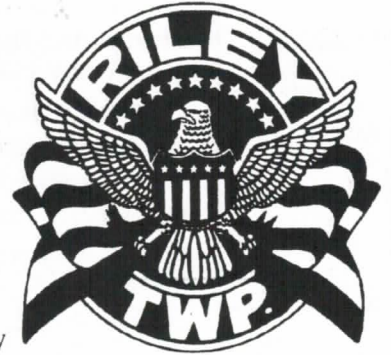


THE RILEY REPORT

News of the Township, by Supervisor Donna Bernardi



Volume 1, Issue 2

November, 2002

*Mark your
Calendars!*

Your Riley Township Board of Trustees meet on the second Tuesday of every month. We meet at 7 pm in the Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

Inside this issue:

Circuit Breaker	1
Assessor Rooney	2
Clerk's Corner	2
Our Town Hall	2
Riley Road District - Winter Parking Restrictions	3
Directory	4

Are you aware that the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) presented a proposal to Riley Township, and the surrounding area, to acquire approximately 8,000 acres of Riley Township? Roughly 150+ residents were present at our regular Township Meeting in October, as the MCCD presented the proposed "Crows Foot." This proposal is "to acquire a several thousand-acre open space for public hunting... and other recreational activities such as hiking, fishing, and bird watching." State Representative Jack Franks collected questions from area residents and is still waiting for a response to these and other questions from the Conservation District: 1.) What will happen to valuable area farm land should the Coon Creek be allowed to go back to it's natural state? 2.) Who will pick up the slack after all the tax dollars are lost from land and home acquisitions? 3.) Will all purchases be from willing sellers, or will emanate domain apply? 4.) What will become of our school without the existing tax base?

Senator Dick Klemm has responded by putting a hold on any grant money to the MCCD from the IDNR until such a time when issues can be resolved.

Circuit Breaker and Pharmaceutical Assistance

The Circuit Breaker Program is a state run program that provides a yearly grant for relief from property tax, mobile home tax, rent, or nursing home charges that qualifying senior and disabled persons pay on their residences.

The Pharmaceutical Assistance program helps pay for approved prescription medications used for the following conditions: Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, glaucoma, heart and blood pressure, lung disease, osteoporosis, and Parkinson's disease.

If you are:

65 years of age or older, 16 or older before January 1, 2002 and totally disabled,

You live in Illinois,

Your income in 2001 must be less than \$21,218 if filing for yourself only, \$28,480 if filing for yourself and a spouse, and \$35,740 for yourself and at least 2 qualified additional residents.

I do have some applications if anyone in Riley is interested in this program. The deadline for filing is December 31, 2002. You can call me at 597-4011 or call 1-800-356-6302 to order your own forms.

The Riley Township Board is excited to announce that our purchase of the 5 acre parcel from Meyer Material was finalized on October 30th. This is a major step forward for Riley Township. We have been in need of additional property for quite some time.

Meyer Material was very generous in their efforts to accommodate the township. Not only did they remove the berm of dirt that occupied the back portion of the parcel, but also planted grass seed.

Although the Road District will be able to make use of the much need storage room, it will be some time before the Town Board will be able to utilize the building. Besides a good clean up, law mandates the building to be handicap accessible. This will come over time, and so we will have to be patient. I feel Riley is moving in a positive direction.

Senior
Homestead
Exemption
Automatic

In 2003 you will no longer need to renew your Senior Homestead Exemption. The McHenry County board members approved a change, senior citizens homestead exemptions automatically will be renewed each year until the property changes hands. The County Assessor's office sent out renewal forms, which had to be completed and mailed back to get

this exemption. County officials fear many seniors lose the exemption because they misplace the renewal form or fail to mail it back.

This exemption takes \$2,000 off the assessed value of the home. There are qualifications that need to be met before anyone can

receive this exemption: you need to reside at the property in which you are applying and at least one of the property owners is 65 years of age.

If you qualify for the senior homestead exemptions, please call Barb Rooney at (815) 568-8326 and leave a message.

Our Riley Town Hall

Did you know that our Riley Town Hall, built in 1868, is the oldest town hall in McHenry County? The next time you're picking up your Market Day order, or attending one of the many organized meetings that are held there, I invite you to look around the room and imagine what it must have been like.

It was an 1848 revised State of Illinois Constitution that provided for the setting up of the township system of government. Almost immediately after the new constitutional convention, 24 Illinois counties ratified a township plan of government, of those 24 counties, 17 were located north of the Illinois River where New England influence was the strongest. Given the transportation method of the 1850's, the necessity of working the land and tending to the livestock, traveling long distances, even to a county seat, was often more than just an inconvenience. Township Government offered immediate help. They provided an overseer of the poor. They had constables and justices of the peace. These neighbors who served as officers set rates of taxation based on a working knowledge of their districts. Because of closer distances, it was much easier to participate in local government by attending township meetings.

Riley Township still to this day, meets in the Riley Town Hall, on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7 pm. The first Supervisor of the township was Ira Sears. Before the present town hall was built in 1868, meetings of the town board were carried on in school houses. Much of the early minutes dealt with which animals may or may not run at large, when if at all, they may, or how much the fines will be for violations. If a bull ran at large, for example, the fine was \$5.00 versus 20 cents per sheep.

In reference to the building of the town hall, in April of 1867, it was moved and seconded that it be built as close to the school house in District #4 as possible and its cost not to exceed \$1,000.00. It was operational in 1868 and at the April meeting they made various motions for its use. It was moved that the town hall be shut up for one year with the exception of town purposes, the motion amended then to allow it's use for funeral purposes. Motion passed. After one year the supervisor could decide which organization, societies, or public lectures deemed for the public good, could use the town hall and at what price.

Being reminded of the history and integrity that goes with our town hall, it is important that we all do our part in keeping it clean. A vacuum is provided for your use, as well as trash bags, towels and soap.

Information for this article was provided by the McHenry County Historical Society. For further information on Riley History, you may contact the Society at (815) 923-2267.

**“HOPE
TO SEE
YOU
THERE!”**

Clerk's Corner BY Karen Schnable

With the new year just around the corner, I would like to remind everyone of our 2003 meeting dates. All regular monthly meetings are held at the Riley Town Hall at 7:00 pm. So mark your calendars... here are the dates for the Riley Township meetings.

January 14, 2003
February 11, 2003
March 11, 2003
April 7, 2003
April 8, 2003¹
May 13, 2003
June 10, 2003

July 8, 2003
August 12, 2003
September 9, 2003
October 14, 2003
November 11, 2003
December 9, 2003
¹Annual Town Meeting

Winter Parking Restrictions on Township Roads

In order for our plowing crews to efficiently plow township roads, parking restrictions were placed on all subdivision roads within the Riley Township Road District jurisdiction. The Ordinance, passed in 1998, restricts parking on all roads from a period of November 15th to April 15th. Vehicles in violation of the ordinance will be towed at owner's expense in addition to fines assessed by the McHenry County Sheriff's Department.

The following streets and subdivisions are subject to the Ordinance:

Banghart Subdivision - Norway Court

Beh Lake Subdivision - All streets

Beth Court

Coral Oaks Subdivision - Oak Creek Lane, Acorn Lane, Coral Oaks Lane

Hidden Farms Estates Subdivision - Wildrose Lane

Lakewood Drive

Maple Street Shores Subdivision - Demmings Drive, Delks Drive

North Hill Road

South Hill Road

Southridge Subdivision - All Streets

All other roads maintained by the Road District had been and still are subject to a No Parking Ordinance enforced by the Sheriff. The Road District appreciates your cooperation in helping us to clear your roadways during the winter season.

NOTICE TO SUBDIVISION RESIDENTS: During the winter months on your designated garbage pick-up days, please place your trash bags and cans *inside* the end of your driveways instead of out on the road. This enables our plowing crews to plow back the entire road instead of weaving around cans and bags. It also prevents the occasional knocked down can

FALL ISSUE, 2002

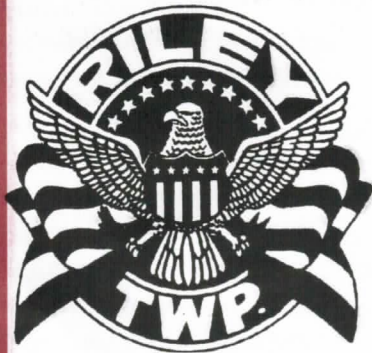
Supervisor Bernardi
7918 Marjorie Dr.
Marengo, IL 60152

Phone: 815-597-4011
Fax: 815-597-4011

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WOODSTOCK, IL
PERMIT NO. 50

or current resident

We Work for you!



- Supervisor: Donna Bernardi.....597-4011*
- Assessor: Barb Rooney.....568-8326*
- Highway Commissioner:.....Dave Diamond*
- Township Garage, Riley Road.....568-6221*
- Clerk:.....Karen Schnable*
- Trustees:.....Arlene Genell*
-Jim Gibbons*
-Pat Grimm*
-Doug Kunde*

Your Comments and Concerns are Welcome

Articles and/or tidbits of information that may be of interest to the residents of Riley Township will be considered for inclusion in the next township newsletter. We reserve the right to edit upon available space in the publication. Send your comments to: *Riley Township Supervisor, Donna Bernardi at 7918 Marjoirie Dr., Marengo, IL 60152.*

Also, should you know someone who has not received a copy of this newsletter and that person would like to be placed on our mailing list, please contact Supervisor Bernardi.

**Dial-A-Ride
In Riley Township
1-800-273-5939**

All residents of Riley Township are serviced by Dial-A-Ride, the R.T.A.'s Pace Bus. This service covers the Marengo-Union area. All pick-ups are made on first-come, first-serve, basis. The cost per ride is a \$1.50, the fare for students, seniors, or the disabled is \$.75. Hours for available service are 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. You will need to call for a pick-up at least one half hour prior to your desired pick-up time. Call 1-800-273-5939 for more information.