

# THE RILEY REPORT

Volume 1, Issue 1

March, 2002



## We Work for You!

*Calendar of Events:*

- April 8, 2002 regular township meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.
- April 9, 2002 Riley Township's annual Town Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall
- May 14, 2002 regular township meeting at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall

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Donna Bernardi is your Township Supervisor. Her main responsibilities for the township include being the Treasurer of all town funds, and Supervisor of General Assistance. Since her election she has earned a certificate for continuing education in professional development from the Township Officials of Illinois. This marks her participation in education focused on statutory responsibilities and public service. She is currently also serving as secretary for the McHenry County Township Officials Association.

David Diamond is your Highway Commissioner. He is responsible for the maintenance and repair of Riley Township's forty-seven miles of roads, all the equipment and the road district garage. The road district maintains all roads that are not maintained by IDOT, McHenry County, or the City of Marengo. Due to budgetary constraints, the position of the Highway Commissioner and road district employees are all part-time. They perform essential services such as snow removal, pavement repairs, tree trimming, sign maintenance, mowing and roadside litter pickup. The Highway Commissioners's responsibilities also include preparing the road district budget and levy, issuing all

new driveway permits, supervising all utility construction in the township right of way, attending numerous meetings regarding township road issues and insuring that the interests of Riley Township's Road District are represented.

Karen Schnable is your Township Clerk. Some of her responsibilities include maintaining the records throughout the year. Other responsibilities such as those relating to the annual town meeting arise once a year. The Township Clerk is also the Clerk for the Road District. She processes the Road District's bills and prepares a report that is presented to the Town Board for approval on a monthly basis.

Your Tax Assessor is Barbara Rooney. She has successfully completed all the necessary schooling for her C.I.A.O. (Certified Illinois Assessing Official) and continues her education in the assessing field every year by taking two classes over the summer months.

Trustee Pat Grimm has been a servant to our community since 1985 when she held the Clerks position until her retirement from office in 1996. She decided to return to public service as a Trustee in 1997. She is also the

Business Manager and a Bus Driver for Riley School since 1982.

Doug Kunde is one of the three newly elected Trustees last spring. He is an active member of St. Johns United Church of Christ in Harmony, serving on the Property and finance committee for the church.

Besides being a Trustee, Jim Gibbons also serves as a Member of the New Marengo High School Committee, The General Advisory Committee at Marengo High School. He serve as Extraordinary Minister at Scared Heart Church and is also a member of the Township Officials Association of McHenry County.

Before Arlene Genell was voted into the position of Trustee, she served Riley Township as the Chair of the Riley Plan Commission. As a member of the Plan Commission she helped formulate the Riley Land Use Plan- 2000. She brings with her experience earned as an elected official of Lake County, former Chair of Governor Edgar's IL Advisory Council for Head and Spinal Cord Injury, and Board member of the American Cancer Society. She is also a active member of Sacred Heart Church in Marengo.

# Tips from Assessor Rooney

Are you “aware of a few exemptions that you, as a taxpayer, may be qualified for?”

I would like to make you as a taxpayer aware of a few exemptions that you may be qualified for.

The Homestead Exemption would qualify you for a DISCOUNT of \$3,500 off the equalized assessed value of your home provided you meet the following criteria. The house must be owner occupied and having a legal, equitable interest in the property; be a single family residence; coop-

eratives - owner liable for taxes by contract or, life care facility-owner liable for taxes by contract.

There is also what is called the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption. This enables you to \$2,000 off of your equalized assessed value times the tax rate. First time applicants must complete the appropriate application, provide proof of age, and provide a copy of a document showing your

name, legal description and the legal or equitable interest in the property i.e., warranty deed, title policy, etc.

If you feel you qualify for any of the above exemptions, check your tax bill to see if you are receiving them. If you are qualified and are not receiving the appropriate exemption please feel free to contact me at (815) 568-8326 and leave a message with your call back telephone number.

RILEY CEMETERY

## Hi, Riley Township Residents

as submitted by Clarice Dahlman

Let me introduce you to the Riley Township Cemetery Board. We are Clarice Dahlman, Pres., Jack Burke, Vice Pres., Wylie Anthony, Tres. and Karin Dornik as Secretary. Members are Don Anthony, Dean Steffen and Antone Stecher. We are all Volunteers with a seven member Board.

We meet once a year at the Pres. Home to discuss anything that might needed to be done in the future. When there is a burial, we mark the Grave Sight for the person digging it. We have a clean up day in the Spring, most of the time. The Cub Scouts have been very generous by helping pick up brush and General Clean up. There is a certain amount of paper work from County and State which is taken care of by the Officers.

We operate on Past Funding from Grave Sights and present Donations. There are some Burial Plots left if anyone is interested. Also, when you put flowers on graves, we would appreciate if they were removed by April 1st of each year.

Riley Cemetery has always been well maintained and we try to keep it that way by doing the best job possible with what we have. If you have any questions please contact Clarice Dahlman at 815-568-8764.

Thank you for your time. Have a great day.

Riley Cemetery Board

## Make your next meeting at the Town Hall

The Riley Town Hall is available for use as a meeting place for the residents of Riley Township. Many non-for-profit groups do take advantage of its availability. Examples include Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, the 4-H, and the South Ridge Homeowners Association. Access to the

building must be done through the Supervisor of the Township, Donna Bernardi. Availability is done on a first come first serve basis. Anyone using the building is expected to leave it clean. Trash bags and a vacuum are provided. No tacks or nails are allowed on the walls of

the building. In addition, no tables, chairs, or dishes will be removed from the Town Hall without the permission of the Supervisor. The borrowing of the tables and chairs is for the residents of Riley Township only. If you're interested, please call at 597-4011.

DO YOU  
NEED  
TABLES  
AND  
CHAIRS FOR  
YOUR NEXT  
PARTY?

## Clerk's Corner

By Karen Schnable

On April 9th, Riley Township will hold its' Annual Town Meeting. This takes place at our Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. If you wish to hold a casting vote on any issue, you must be a regis-

tered voter in Riley Township on no less than 28 days before the date of the annual meeting. At this time, I am required to verify the registration status of the voters. Please bring a form

of identification to the meeting if you plan to take part in the voting process. I will check in all voters using a voter registration list provided by the county. I hope I see you there.

Hope to see you there!!!



## News “Flash”



Undoubtedly, we have all driven through the intersection of Route 23 and Pleasant Grove/Coral Roads. I am sure most of us thought about the extreme danger this intersection presents. Essentially an intersection on a curve, it is nearly impossible to gain a clear perspective when traveling any direction but east.

After becoming Highway Commissioner, I did some investigating into why additional safeguards had never been installed at the site. In September, 2000 I contacted IDOT and State Senator Dick Klemm about my concerns. Senator Klemm took immediate interest and IDOT responded that their Traffic counts in June of 2000 averaged just under 300 cars an hour and that did not warrant any intersection safety improvements.

After receiving that information, I again contacted IDOT and requested their criteria on installing a flashing amber beacon. They responded that there were “no specific traffic count requirements to warrant such an installation.” Again I called upon



Senator Klemm and State Representative Rosemary Kurtz as well and requested their assistance in getting a flashing amber beacon installed at the intersection advance signs. Senator Klemm contacted Matt Davidson of IDOT’s Springfield headquarters. In the summer of 2001 Mr. Davidson met with me at the intersection and we discussed the safety concerns present there.

Following the meeting, numerous calls to Springfield were made. Finally last fall I received word from Senator Klemm’s office that the project had been approved and it would begin some time over the winter. The flashing lights were activated for the first time on March 11, 2002.

I wish to extend Riley Township’s sincere thanks to Senator Klemm, his assistant Geri Davis, State Representative Kurtz, and Matt Davidson of IDOT. The combined assistance of these individuals will make a significant improvement toward safe driving in Riley Township.

Supervisor Bernardi  
7918 Marjorie Dr.  
Marengo, IL 60152

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

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**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 Marjorie 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.