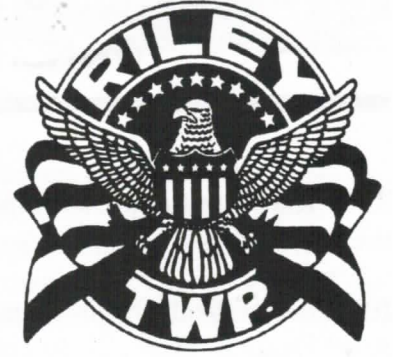


THE RILEY REPORT



News of the Township,

by Supervisor Donna Bernardi

This April, the Consolidated Election, will be held back in the Town Hall for Riley Township residents. This past November, the Presidential Election was located at Riley School to accommodate the handicapped. Many residents requested that the Board of Trustees do what was necessary to have the elections take place back in the Town Hall. A new wider (36") door was installed, with lower thresholds and a platform ramp was to be put in place to make for easier access for the disabled. Once this was all completed, permission from the County Clerk, Kathryn Schultz, to have the election back in the Town Hall was granted. For security and safety, new lighting was also installed by the front door, staying lit from dusk to dawn.

The Martinek Land Company has withdrawn their petition #04-65 for the rezoning of approximately 45 acres on Grange Road from A-1 to E-2 (estate 2 acre) from the McHenry County Board.

The Riley Township Plan Commission has 2 positions due for renewal. These are volunteer positions whose term is for 2 years. The Commission is made up of a 5 member board who meet once a month to discuss land use changes in Riley and give their opinion to the Board of Trustees based on our land-use map. Anyone interested in being appointed should write a letter of application introducing themselves and a brief paragraph regarding why they would like to be on the board, or any experiences they have had in regards to planning, by the 1st of May, to Clerk Karen Schnable, 21451 Norway Court, Marengo, IL 60152. Residents of Riley Township will only be considered.

Clerks Corner by Karen Schnable

Be sure to mark your calendars for April 12, 2005

On Tuesday April 12, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. Riley Township will be holding its Annual Town Meeting. The Town meeting has its roots in the centuries-old traditions of New England. It is the only way voters can directly vote to exercise governmental powers when assembled as a group. Townships are different from other governmental bodies in that the elected board members are not the "corporate authorities". The electors assembled at a town meeting are the corporate authorities. There are many things that the electors can decide at the Annual Town Meeting. For example, last year the electors decided to make a resolution regarding the Route 20 bypass. The people attending last years meeting did not want Riley Township to support the bypass and a resolution was passed and forwarded to the County Board and other governmental bodies involved in the study. This was an effective way of letting all the parties involved know how the Township felt. The best part about it was that it was the feeling of the people of the Township, not just the Township Board. So, you see there are plenty of reasons to come to the Annual Township Meeting, because it is one of the most effective ways to voice your opinion. I hope to see you on Tuesday April 12, 2005.

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.

RILEY ROAD DISTRICT by Dave Diamond Highway Commissioner TOWNSHIP RIGHT OF WAY-KNOWING THE LIMITS:

Riley Township Road District is responsible for the maintenance and repair of 47 miles of roadway throughout the township. We strive to provide good roads along maintained and safe right of way.

It is often difficult for property owners to understand the limitations of their ownership in conjunction with the Road District. Sixty (60) to Sixty six (66) foot overall right of ways are common to highway departments in this part of the United States. A rule of thumb to use is from the center of the road to the high side of the ditch or often times the power pole line is the right of way or easement. The Road District is extremely grateful for the assistance that many landowners provide by mowing right of way and keeping it clean of debris. However, the fact that this assistance is provided should not imply ownership.

In this day and age of increased liability and lawyers waiting to file suit, we all need to be extremely careful. Last year an unfortunate situation occurred in this township. A homeowner decided that a concrete and brick mailbox in front of their property would be a nice addition. Unfortunately, the homeowner never contacted the Road District prior to building the substantial mailbox. The homeowner would have saved time money and aggravation if they had contacted us first. Permanent structures in the Township Right of Way are strictly prohibited. An obstruction like the mailbox, while visually appealing, is extremely dangerous. If a motorist hit the mailbox at speed a severe accident and injury could have occurred. The homeowner was contacted and told to remove the mailbox. The homeowner, understandably upset, wanted a second opinion and contacted the McHenry County States Attorney. The States Attorney advised the homeowner that the mailbox was along public right of way and directives from the Road District had to be followed. The mail box was removed shortly thereafter.

The potential liability with a permanent obstruction such as the mail box to Riley Township and the homeowner could have been substantial. Riley Township Road District does not have the economic wherewithal to face judgments made by illegal installations along our road right of way. While unpopular, we have to protect the township and enforce the law.

We appreciate all landowners cooperation in helping to comply with the law and keep our roads safe. Items such as rocks, timbers, bricks, trees and shrubs, lights, basketball poles and other large objects in the right of way are prohibited. While some of these items may be in place currently we would appreciate your cooperation in removing them or calling if you have questions. When renewing your mailbox post, the face of the mailbox should be a minimum of three feet off of the road edge. The unobstructed right of way will improve roadway drainage and snowplowing operations and lead to a safe network of Township Roads.

Update: The McHenry County Gravel Advisory Council by Donna Bernardi

The McHenry County Gravel Advisory Council has put together an informational brochure to help answer frequently asked questions regarding the aggregate industry. Copies will be available at the Annual Town Meeting on April 12th, 2005. The McHenry County Gravel Advisory Council was formed in 2003 to provide for the county, townships and municipalities to discuss mining related issues that effect their communities.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS FOR SENIORS FROM YOUR RILEY TOWNSHIP TAX ASSESSOR BARB ROONEY

The following dates may have lapsed, so save this article for next year.

HEATING HELP: Investigate whether you may qualify for and benefit from the LiHeap, or the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. This program helps with the high cost of heating bills through April 30. Monthly income guidelines are \$1,164 for one person, \$1,561 for two people and \$397 for each additional person. Applicants must provide proof of all income for the past 30 days, proof of rent or home ownership, current gas and electric bills, Social Security card and current identification. Applications can be filed at the McHenry County Housing Authority or at Senior Services for applicants 60 and older.

INCOME TAXES: AARP volunteers are available at several area sites to help fill out income tax forms. Tax assistance is free, but appointments are required. For information and appointments, call Algonquin Township at (847) 639-2700, Ext. 7, or Nunda Township at (815) 459-4011.

MONEY HELP: Some seniors are eligible for the Illinois Department on Aging's Circuit Breaker/Senior Care program, which provides several benefits, including reduced license plate sticker fees, small grants to offset rent or property tax, and assistance with paying for prescription medicines. New applications can be filed at any time, but current beneficiaries must reapply every year. This year's deadline to avoid coverage interruption is March 1. Current beneficiaries are encouraged to reapply online at www.state.il.us/aging/. Senior Services will e-file applications for you.

PROPERTY TAX DEFFERAL: Those who qualify can defer property tax payments until they no longer own their homes. Applications are due to the McHenry County Assessors office by March 1. Applicants must be 65 during the tax year in which they apply, with an income of less than \$40,000. Information and forms are available from the McHenry County Assessors office or Senior Services.

SENIOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: This exemption reduces your home's assessed tax value by \$3,000. Applicants must own their home and be 65 or older during the tax year. Forms, which can be completed at any time, need to be filed only once. Information and forms are available from the McHenry County Assessors office or Senior Services.

ASSESSMENT FREEZE: This freezes the assessed value of your property so that your taxes will never go up based on assessed value. Applicants must own the property as of January 1 in the year of application, be at least 65 in that tax year and have a household income of no more than \$45,000. Applications are due July 1. Information and forms are available from the McHenry County Assessors office or Seniors Services.

DRUG DISCOUNT CARDS: Investigate whether you are eligible for the Medicare program. Enrollment is open. For information visit www.medicare.gov or contact Senior Services for assistance.

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The Plan Commission had to postpone the December Citizens' meeting due to a Riley School Holiday Concert. As it turns out this was actually a good thing. Supervisor Donna Bernardi and Plan Commission Chairman Cathy Johnson had just started attending a group of meetings organized by Marengo Township to address growth issues in Marengo, Union and the four surrounding townships. Participants include representatives of all of the local governments including the County along with a number of other groups all part of the Campaign for Sensible Growth.

Riley Township officials have chosen to actively participate in this group. Hopefully, we will end up with an inter-governmental plan to ensure future water availability and quality, and land-use growth and development.

SPRING ISSUE, 2005

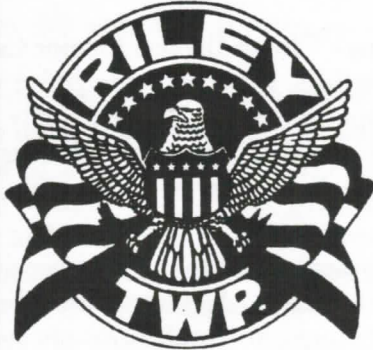
Supervisor Bernardi
7918 Marjorie Dr.
Marengo, IL 60152

Phone/fax:
815-597-4011

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Township Directory

Supervisor:

Donna Bernardi
.....597-4011

Assessor:

Barb Rooney
.....568-8326

Highway Comm.:

Dave Diamond
Township Garage,
Riley Rd.
.....568-6221

Clerk:

Karen Schnable
.....568-2729

Trustees:

Jim Gibbons
Pat Grimm
Doug Kunde
Ted Oberg

The McHenry County Historical Society in Union, Illinois will be hosting a traveling exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution and sponsored by the Illinois Humanities Council.

KEY INGREDIENTS: AMERICA
by FOOD

JUNE 25TH THRU AUGUST 5TH

This traveling exhibit provides a unique opportunity for all of us in McHenry County to show off this area and its food and social traditions. As a part of the exhibit the historical society museum will feature interactive local food production and food related displays.

For more information contact the McHenry County Historical Society at (815) 923-2267 or visit their web site at (www.mchsonline.org)